Alberta
ENVIRONMENT

Fisheries Management and Regulatory Requirements for Angling on the Lower Bow River

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

FINAL REPORT

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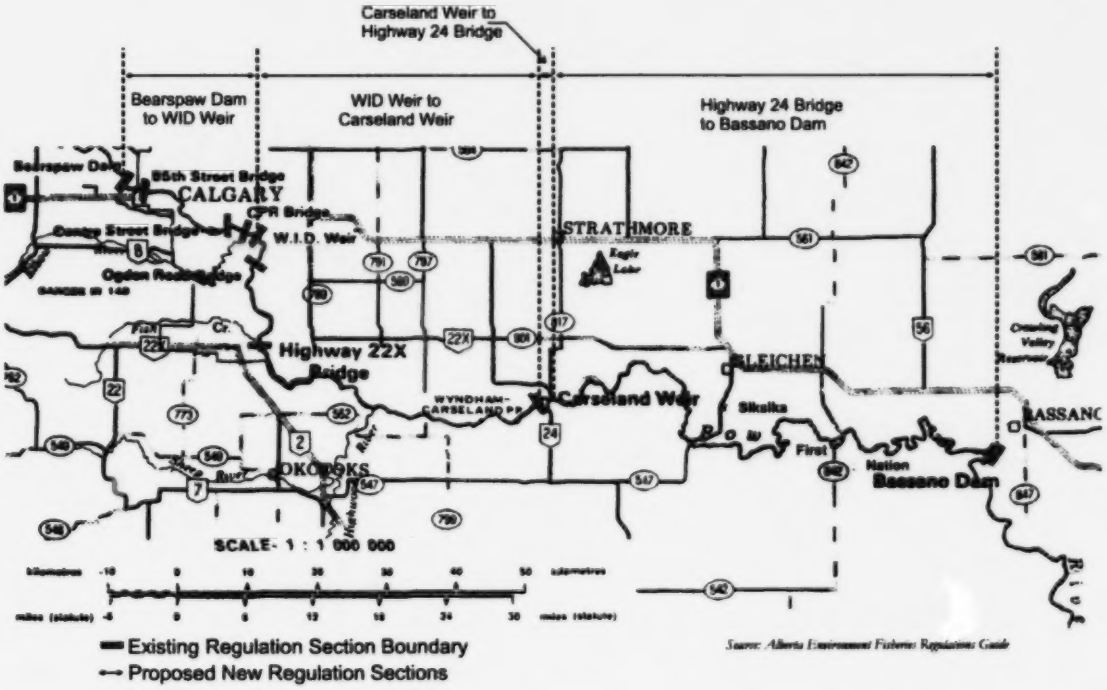
Executive Summary

The lower Bow River, from the Bearspaw Dam in Calgary downstream to Bassano was identified by the Natural Resources Service, Bow Region, Alberta Environment for a fisheries management review. Use pressures on the fishery in the Calgary to Bassano area have been increasing. Angling regulations are complex; there are eight subsections of the lower Bow River each with its own regulations. The high number of users in the area, and the trend toward increasing use, made public involvement critical to the fisheries management review.

Some of the regulations governing angling in this part of the Bow River have been in place for over fifteen years and require modification to deal with current and emerging conditions. The management and regulations review resulted in the preparation of recommendations to ensure the maintenance of the sport fishery.

The map below shows the reaches of the lower Bow River that were the focus of the public consultation and recommendations on fisheries management and angling regulations.



A sixteen (16) member Advisory Committee (Committee) comprised of people representing interests directly associated with the Lower Bow River was established to help guide the public involvement process and make recommendations for consideration by the Fisheries and Wildlife Management Division, and the Minister of Alberta Environment.

The recommendations proposed by the Committee reduces the number of regulation sections of the lower Bow River from eight to four and simplifies the angling regulations within each new section. Recommendations were prepared using:

1. Results from public workshops and a survey in February 2000;
2. Public responses to the Committee's draft recommendations received in May 2000;
3. Expert advice provided by the Alberta Conservation Association and Alberta Environment staff who worked with the Committee; and
4. The experience and opinions of Committee members.

Recommendations

Bearspaw Dam to WID Weir, including the Elbow River (downstream from Glenmore Reservoir)

1. April 1 to May 31 - CLOSED
2. October 1 to November 30 - CLOSED
3. Maggots are the only bait allowed and only from August 16 to September 30
4. Limits: One (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)

   Three (3) pike, no size limit

   Five (5) mountain whitefish greater than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)
5. The current provincial angling regulations should apply for all other sportfish species found in the lower Bow River (e.g., perch, burbot, bulltrout, cutthroat trout, etc.)

WID Weir to Carseland Weir

1. No closures to angling
2. Bait ban
3. Limits: One (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)

   Three (3) pike, no size limit

   Five (5) mountain whitefish greater than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)
4. The current provincial angling regulations should apply for all other sportfish species found in the lower Bow River (e.g., perch, burbot, bulltrout, cutthroat trout, etc.)

Carseland Weir to Highway 24 Bridge

1. April 1 to May 31 - CLOSED
2. October 1 to November 30 - CLOSED
3. Bait ban
4. Limits: One (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)

   Three (3) pike, no size limit

   Five (5) mountain whitefish greater than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)
5. The current provincial angling regulations should apply for all other sportfish species found in the lower Bow River (e.g., perch, burbot, bulltrout, cutthroat trout, etc.)

Highway 24 Bridge to Bassano Dam

1. No closures to angling
2. Bait ban
3. Limits: One (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)

   Three (3) pike greater than 63 cm total length (maximum, pinched)

   Five (5) mountain whitefish greater than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)
4. The current provincial angling regulations should apply for all other sportfish species found in the lower Bow River (e.g., perch, burbot, bulltrout, cutthroat trout, etc.)

Additional Recommendations

1. Monitoring and Data Collection - With the change in the regulations it is important that adequate data is collected on a consistent and ongoing basis to ensure regulations are having the desired effect. This will ensure that the fish population is sustained. As part of data collection, the Committee recommends that the carrying capacity for trout and whitefish on the lower Bow River be determined.
2. Health of the River - The Committee recommends up-to-date environmental assessments, ongoing water quality monitoring for the effects of wastewater and runoff water into the lower Bow River be addressed for potential effects on the fishery. Specifically:

   a. Monitor potential land use activities and land use changes to determine the effect on the health of the river and sustainability of fish populations.

   b. When changes in land use are anticipated, their cumulative impact on fisheries should be considered.

3. Adequate Flow - Water flow in the lower Bow River should be continuously monitored to ensure that sufficient flow is maintained to sustain a healthy fishery.

4. Regulations and Enforcement -

   a. A public awareness, information and extension program should be provided for people and organizations using, occupying and regulating land within the watershed of the lower Bow River. The Committee believes this would assist users, landowners and municipalities to better understand the fishery, the species of fish that inhabit the river and the potential impact that human activities (e.g., angling, effluent releases, and landscape alteration) may have on fish populations. This program should be part of, and complimentary to, enforcement and compliance with the new regulations.

   b. Motorized water craft should not be allowed between the Bearspaw Dam in Calgary and the Carseland Dam.

Acknowledgments

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their participation in the review:

Advisory Committee Members

Trevor Rhodes, Chair	Alberta Environment
Graham Anderson	Angler
Rick Bennett	Fly-fishing Angler
Gord Kennedy	Bow River Anglers Association
Harold Pinel	City of Calgary
Dee Chatani	Outfitter/Angler
Sandra Foss	Environmental Non-Government Organization Member
Dave Hill	Bow River Water Council
Art Gerritsen	Bait Fisherman
John Knoeck	Trout Unlimited
Harold Smith	District Conservation Officer, Alberta Environment
Stan Webb	District Conservation Officer, Alberta Environment
Maria Big Snake	Siksika First Nation, Environment Technician
Robert Everett	Alberta Fish and Game Association
Jim McLennan	Angler
Bill MacKay	Academic/Research

Resource People - Alberta Environment and Alberta Conservation Association

Duane Radford	Terry Clayton
Dave Berry	Cam Wallman

We would like to acknowledge the following people for their valued support:

Catherine Hart	Communications - Alberta Environment
Chris Dawson	Communications - Alberta Environment
Beth Kirby	Communications - Alberta Environment
Megan Hockley	Strathmore District Office - Alberta Environment
Sarah Hiuser	Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery

We would to acknowledge the Alberta Conservation Association for their financial support.

We would also like to thank all of the people who took the time to participate in workshops and respond to surveys during this review.

Introduction

The lower Bow River extends from Bearspaw Dam in Calgary downstream to Bassano. The area is influenced and impacted by a population of approximately 850,000 people, most of whom reside in Calgary. The river reach in this area extends for approximately 240 kilometers. Public uses include contact recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, irrigation, livestock watering, ecosystem maintenance and wildlife.

The current angling regulations for the lower Bow River:

- Are based on various fisheries management plans and initiatives.
- Have been developed over the last fifteen years.
- Are complex.

There are currently eight sections in the study area, each having a different set of angling regulations. As well, over the last fifteen years there have been substantial increases in the number of people fishing on the lower Bow River and significant changes in the behaviour and attitudes of anglers and the public, as demonstrated from recent fisheries surveys by Alberta Environment (AENV), Natural Resources Service.

Purpose of the Review

The Fisheries and Wildlife Management Division, AENV concluded there was a need to review the fisheries management in the lower Bow River and develop recommendations for future management of the fishery. The recommendations would be the basis for specific angling regulations and fisheries management objectives in consideration of users of the various sections of the lower Bow River and maintenance of the high quality trout fishery.

Use of an Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee (Committee) comprised of people representing interests directly associated with the lower Bow River was established.

The sixteen member Committee represented the following interests:

- Alberta Fish and Game Association
- City of Calgary
- Retailer catering to angling
- Siksika First Nation
- Regulation enforcement
- Bait anglers
- Academic/Research
- Trout Unlimited
- Angling guide
- Property owner
- Environmental, non government organization
- Fly anglers
- Bow River Water Council
- Biological/Fisheries management

The role of the Committee was to:

- Represent a range of directly affected interests.
- Report and advise AENV fisheries management staff through the Director, Fisheries and Wildlife Management Division, Natural Resources Service.
- Provide a "third party" review and recommendations in support of an open and fair process.
- Provide advice and recommendations on a public consultation process.
- Provide advice and recommendations on which management and regulatory options are appropriate to the Calgary to Bassano portion of the Bow River.

The Committee was supported by resource people including:

- Process Advisor, Coordinator and Meeting Facilitator
- Assistant Director & Head of Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Wildlife Management Division
- Provincial Recreational Fisheries Specialist, Fisheries and Wildlife Management Division
- Provincial Fisheries Science Specialist, Fisheries and Wildlife Management Division
- Alberta Conservation Association Advisor

In support of the public involvement process, the Committee reviewed and agreed to the development of:

- A terms of reference to guide public involvement (see Appendix 1)
- A clearly defined communications strategy with an outline of roles and responsibilities for publicizing and encouraging participation among people who may have an interest in the lower Bow River fisheries consultation.
- Four workshops during the month of February 2000 in Strathmore, Siksika and 2 in Calgary (see Appendix 2 for the workshop agenda, locations, dates and number of participants and Appendix 4 for results).
- A direct mail survey for those people who wished to participate, but could not attend a workshop (see Appendix 3 for a copy of the survey and Appendix 4 for results).
- A direct mail survey to allow people to respond to the Committee's recommendations prior to submission of recommendations to the Minister (see Appendix 5).

Public Involvement

The Committee developed a public involvement program to support their recommendation process. The focus of the public involvement program was to allow the Committee to:

> ***Recommend angling regulations to help manage fisheries on the lower Bow River and support healthy, sustainable sport fish populations.***

Need for public involvement was based on the following:

- AENV has a commitment to public involvement in decision making.
- AENV will gain the benefit of guidance in the design, delivery and consideration of responses collected during the public involvement program.
- AENV will benefit from public comment and support for a better set of fisheries management regulations in the long term.
- All participants will benefit through opportunities to learn about the condition of the fishery and by sharing their perceptions and perspectives.

The purposes of the public involvement program were to:

- Provide information to participants about the process and desired outcomes from the fisheries management review of the lower Bow River and the role of public involvement, including why the review is necessary and timely.
- Identify and evaluate a range of fisheries management issues for the lower Bow River.
- Provide, expand and assess a list of fisheries management principles and decision criteria for use in evaluating management options.
- Allow participants to identify potential, broad based solutions that could be considered and applied to the lower Bow River in support of the principles/criteria.

Public Involvement Process

The public involvement program consisted of the following steps:

1. Program design

An involvement program was drafted, proposed, reviewed and approved by the Committee.

This included the purposes, principles and the decision statement that would be addressed using the results of the public involvement program, the methods to be used to encourage participation and obtain public comment, as well as the range of interests that the Committee believed should be encouraged to participate.

2. Develop detailed public involvement methods - workshops and surveys

An agenda and involvement process was prepared for each public involvement workshop. The Committee reviewed the agenda and proposed approach, provided their comments on the organization and desired results.

3. Information out to potential participants

a. In late January and early February 2000, over 1,900 information bulletins and response cards were sent to people identified by the Committee (see Appendix 2). The information alerted people of the opportunity to participate in the lower Bow River fisheries management review. The contact list included, but was not limited to:

- Trout Unlimited members in the lower Bow River region
- Alberta Fish and Game Association in the lower Bow River region
- Calgary Board of Education
- Environmental non-government organizations
- The Urban Development Association
- Bow River Anglers Association
- Siksika First Nation
- Calgary area angling retailers and outfitters for distribution to their customers
- Vendors of fishing licenses for distribution to their customers
- Calgary area cultural organizations
- Calgary and regional media
- District offices of Alberta Environment in the study area

b. Four public workshops were held in February 2000. The workshops were designed to identify and evaluate:

- Issues, needs, and concerns
- Desired results from a fisheries management plan
- Potential actions for fisheries management on the lower Bow River.

A total of 97 people attended the four workshops held in Siksika, Strathmore and Calgary (two workshops).

For those people who had indicated an interest in participating in the review, but were not available to attend a workshop, a survey, following the line of questioning at the workshops was prepared. This survey was mailed, with a postage paid return envelope, to 177 people. One hundred and (108) surveys were completed and returned (a response rate of 61%).

Results of the public workshops and completed surveys are included in Appendix 4.

c. The Committee considered the advice provided from the workshops and surveys in the preparation of recommendations. Once their draft recommendations were prepared, an information update along with a second survey/response form was prepared. Over 1,200 project information updates and survey/response forms were distributed as follows:

- 282 to the contact list developed from people who participated either at a workshop or by completing a survey.
- 550 to Calgary area retailers and outfitters for distribution to customers.
- 300 to AENV's Strathmore offices for distribution to cultural organizations in the City of Calgary and district offices of AENV in the study area.
- 88 to Committee members for their information and distribution.

The information update, sent out in May 2000, described the recommendations and the rational behind them. The response form allowed people to respond to each recommendation by indicating whether they a) agreed with the recommendation as it stood, b) agreed but had some conditions they felt should be met for the recommendation to be acceptable, or c) disagreed with the recommendation. There were 191 responses received to the recommendations.

Results of the response to the recommendations are included on Appendix 5.

After these recommendations are provided to AENV, Fisheries and Wildlife Management Division will present them to the Minister of AENV for final approval and implementation.

It is expected the regulation recommendations provided in this report will come into effect April 1, 2001, pending approval of the Minister of Alberta Environment.

Results and Recommendations

The Committee focused on three theme areas pertinent to angling regulations in the preparation of their recommendations:

1. Protection of spawning areas.
2. Regulations and enforcement.
3. Bait fishing.

The Committee identified nine guidelines that emerged from the public consultation process to use in their preparation and evaluation of fisheries regulation options:

1. The Bow River fishery is unique.
2. There is a need to ensure the quality of the trout fishery.
3. There is a need to manage fish populations while they are still healthy rather than waiting until there is a crisis.
4. Spawning fish and the associated habitat must be protected.
5. Simplify regulations as long as there is no risk to the fishery.
6. Don't implement total closures unless it's necessary.
7. Allow the harvest of fish but not at the expense of sustaining fish populations.
8. There is little support for new angling or guiding fees.
9. Regulations need to be enforceable, based on science and acceptance by the angling public.

The proposal from the Committee reduces the number of regulation sections on the lower Bow River from eight to four and simplifies the angling regulations within each new section. The proposed regulations that follow reflect the nine guidelines described above.

Public comments on the proposed regulations were important to the preparation of the final recommendations produced by the Committee. The following recommendations were prepared as a result of comments received from workshops and surveys in February 2000 and responses received by mail during May 2000. A summary of public response to the recommendations is included following each section (see Appendix 5 for detailed results).

Bearspaw Dam to WID Weir, including the Elbow River (downstream from Glenmore Reservoir)

1. April 1 to May 31 - CLOSED

Reasons:

a. Provides protection for spring river-spawning rainbow trout.

b. Protects incubating brown trout eggs from mortality associated with wading impacts when the eggs are most sensitive. This section has a high density of brown trout redds (spawning).

2. **October 1 to November 30 - CLOSED**

Reasons:

a. Protects spawning brown trout from harvest when they are concentrated, highly visible and the most vulnerable.

b. The length of the closure has been extended two weeks longer than previous regulations due to recent surveys that show significant spawning activity continues through to the end of November.

c. This regulation also provides protection from wading impacts on eggs as anglers are attracted specifically to redd areas due to the high visibility of concentrated large spawning fish.

3. **Maggots are the only bait allowed and only from August 16 to September 30**

Reasons:

a. Most bait is not allowed in order to maximize the survival of released fish. A maximum size limit requires the mandatory release of some trout. Mortality for trout caught and released has been shown to be 30- to 50 per cent higher when using bait than without bait.

b. Allowing maggots only during the fall encourages harvest of mountain whitefish, and has not been demonstrated to significantly increase trout catches or mortality. This section of the lower Bow River has traditionally had the highest amount of angling for mountain whitefish.

4. **Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched[1])**

Reasons:

a. A 35 cm maximum size limit (i.e., all trout larger than 35 cm must be released) protects the majority of adult, spawning age rainbow and brown trout and maximizes the numbers of large trout in the population.

b. A 35 cm maximum size limit still allows some harvest of trout but with the least impact to the population.

c. Reduction of the daily limit from two trout to one ensures that enough young fish make it to spawning age but still allows anglers to have a meal of trout if desirable.

Public response and comments:

There was majority agreement among respondents with the recommendations provided for this section of the lower Bow River.

At least 60% of the 191 people who responded to the recommendations for this section of the lower Bow indicated their agreement. The level of agreement ranged from 87% (both spring and autumn closures) to 60% (maggots as the only bait allowed). Written comments indicated disagreement (28% of respondents) with the maggot bait restriction was based, for the most part, on the view that all bait should be banned (58% of 31 comments). Some comments (10% of 30 comments) indicated concern

[1] Total length is measured from the tip of the nose or jaw to the tip of the tail fin, with the tail pinched together - Alberta Guide to Sport Fishing Regulations

with using "maximum, pinched" length of a fish as a measurement since additional fish handling, potentially increasing mortality and fork length was recommended for measurement. There were, as well, a number of comments (77% of 30 comments) indicating this section of the river should be catch and release only.

The Committee reviewed the comments provided by those who disagreed with the recommendation and determined that allowing the use of maggots for bait to target whitefish was still appropriate. Whitefish in the lower Bow River are considered underutilized. The area where maggots can be used is a small section of the lower Bow River that has been traditionally used and is readily accessible by people who prefer to fish for whitefish using bait.

WID Weir to Carseland Weir

1. No closures to angling

Reasons:

a. Seasonal angling closures were deemed unnecessary in this section. Although brown trout do spawn between the WID Weir and Highway 22X, the Committee felt it was desirable to have some angling opportunity within the city during the fall.

b. There is sufficient protection to sustain brown trout populations provided by the upstream fall closures and the proposed maximum 35 cm size limit, and daily limit of one trout..

c. A spring closure at the mouth of the Highwood River, where rainbow trout are known to congregate (i.e., stage) prior to their spawning migration up the Highwood River, and where they are subjected in some years to concentrated angling pressure, was deemed by the Committee to be unnecessary. Angling pressure at this time of the season and at this location is not believed to pose a risk to the sustainability of the Bow River's rainbow trout population.

- The few studies done on angling impacts to spawning success of trout suggest little or no significant impact.
- High angling pressure does not occur every year (dependent on runoff and water level).
- Immediate catch and release mortality is relatively low at this time of year due to very low water temperatures.
- The Committee felt, however, that mortality caused by catch and release angling and impacts to spawning success should be studied for Bow River rainbow trout at this location specifically. Should biological studies show a significant impact of angling on spawning success, a spring closure at this location would be reconsidered.

2. Bait ban

Reasons:

a. Bait is not allowed in order to maximize the survival of released fish. A maximum size limit requires the mandatory release of some trout. Mortality for trout caught and released has been shown to be 30- to 50 per cent higher when using bait than without bait.

b. The total bait ban previously associated with most of this section has been maintained. The use of bait is not compatible with angling regulations that require the release of some caught fish in order to sustain trout populations because of high post-release mortality.

c. The opportunity to use maggots to fish for whitefish is provided in the upper section.

3. Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)

Reasons:

a. The proposed one trout under 35 cm regulation provides additional protection to spawning-age trout (see reasons for Bearspaw Dam to WID Weir).

b. The 0 trout limit from April 1 to May 31 that previously existed from Highway 22X to Carseland was removed since the new regulation provides protection of spawning age trout.

Public response and comments:

There was majority agreement among respondents with the recommendations provided for this section of the lower Bow River.

At least 68% of 189 respondents agreed with the recommendations for this section of the lower Bow River. Agreement, with no conditions, ranged from 92% (Bait ban) to 68% (limit of 1 trout less than 35 cm) of respondents. The recommendation proposing a limit of one trout over 35 cm received a 30% "disagree" response. People indicated in their comments (70% of 41 comments) that catch and release was preferred.

Carseland Weir to Highway 24 Bridge

1. April 1 to May 31 - CLOSED

Reasons:

a. The spring closure is maintained due to the presence of high-density rainbow trout spawning and brown trout redds in this section.

b. Provides protection for spring river-spawning rainbow trout.

c. Protects incubating brown trout eggs from mortality associated with wading impacts at a time when the eggs are most sensitive. This section has a high density of brown trout redds (spawning).

2. October 1 to November 30 - CLOSED

Reasons:

a. A new fall closure is proposed due to the high concentration of brown trout spawning in this section.

b. The length of the closure has been extended two weeks longer than previous regulations due to recent surveys that show significant spawning activity continues through to the end of November.

c. This regulation also provides protection from wading impacts on eggs as anglers are attracted specifically to redd areas due to the high visibility of concentrated large spawning fish.

3. Bait ban

Reasons:

a. Bait is not allowed in order to maximize the survival of released fish. A maximum size limit requires the mandatory release of some trout. Mortality for trout caught and released has been shown to be 30- to 50 per cent higher when using bait than without bait.

b. The total bait ban previously associated with most of this section has been maintained. The use of bait is not compatible with angling regulations that require the release of some caught fish in order to sustain trout populations because of high post-release mortality.

c. The opportunity to use maggots to fish for whitefish is provided in the upper section.

4. Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)

Reasons:

a. A 35 cm maximum size limit (i.e., all trout larger than 35 cm must be released) protects the majority of adult, spawning age rainbow and brown trout and maximizes the numbers of large trout in the population.

b. A 35 cm maximum size limit still allows some harvest of trout but with the least impact to the population (a large proportion of the small immature fish die naturally anyway each year).

c. Reduction of the daily limit from two trout to one ensures that enough young fish make it to spawning age but still allows anglers to have a meal of trout if desirable.

Public response and comments:

There was majority agreement among respondents with the recommendations provided for this section of the lower Bow River.

At least 70% of 189 respondents agreed with the recommendations for this section of the lower Bow River. Unconditional agreement ranged from 93% (no closures to angling) to 70% (limit of one trout less than 35 cm total length). Twenty-two percent (22%) disagreed with the recommendation to keep one trout under 35 cm total length. Of those who disagreed, the forty-four comments received (63%) indicated a preference for catch and release.

Highway 24 Bridge to Bassano Dam

1. No closures to angling

Reason:

a. Seasonal closures were not required in this section since no high density spawning areas have been identified.

2. **Bait ban**

Reasons:

a. Bait is not allowed in order to maximize the survival of released fish. A maximum size limit requires the mandatory release of some trout. Mortality for trout caught and released has been shown to be 30- to 50 per cent higher when using bait than without bait.

b. The total bait ban previously associated with most of this section has been maintained. The use of bait is not compatible with angling regulations that require the release of some caught fish in order to sustain trout populations because of high post-release mortality.

c. The opportunity to use maggots to fish for whitefish is provided in the upper section.

3. **Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)**

Reasons:

a. A 35 cm maximum size limit (i.e., all trout larger than 35 cm must be released) protects the majority of adult, spawning age rainbow and brown trout and maximizes the numbers of large trout in the population.

b. A 35 cm maximum size limit still allows some harvest of trout but with the least impact to the population.

c. Reduction of the daily limit from two trout to one ensures that enough young fish make it to spawning age but still allows anglers to have a meal of trout if desirable.

d. The previous 0 limit October 1 to May 31 regulation was removed since the new limit will provide the necessary protection to sustain the trout fishery and is consistent with regulations on the upstream sections.

4. **Northern Pike - limit of three (3) over 63 cm total length (maximum, pinched)**

Reason:

a. A number of people responded indicating that the provincial regulation for pike should still apply outside of the East Slopes area (i.e., portion of the Bow River in the Prairie Parkland). As Highway 24 is the limit of the East Slopes fisheries regulations, the provincial regulation will apply from Highway 24 to the Bassano Dam.

Public response and comments:

There was majority agreement among respondents with the recommendations provided for this section of the lower Bow River.

At least 71% of 189 respondents to the recommendations for this section of the lower Bow River indicated unconditional agreement. Agreement ranged from 88% (Bait ban) to 71% (Limit of one trout less than 35 cm total length). Among the 19% who disagreed with the recommendation allowing for a limit of one trout over 35 cm, the majority of comments (80% of 25 comments) indicated catch and release only.

General Recommendations (Bearspaw Dam to Bassano Dam)

1. **Limit of one (1) trout less that 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)**

   Reason:

   a. This single regulation for the lower Bow River recognizes that this portion of the River consists of contiguous fish populations and should be managed as a continuous piece of water. The simplicity and effectiveness of the regulations are maximized. *Regular population monitoring is essential to ensure sufficient young trout - which are vulnerable to be harvested - survive to spawning age. Should the Province go to fork length measurement, the 35 cm maximum length would still be used.*

2. **Mountain Whitefish - allow possession of five (5) fish over 30 cm in length**

   Reason:

   a. No change to the mountain whitefish regulations is proposed because the current regulations provide sufficient protection to ensure the sustainability of the population under current and anticipated angling pressure.

3. **Northern Pike (Bearspaw Dam to Highway 24 Bridge) - limit of three (3) with no size limit**

   Reason:

   a. The size limit on pike has been removed as it was recommended that the lower Bow River in this stretch would be managed for trout and mountain whitefish and be consistent with East Slopes angling regulations. Low angling pressure and harvest levels should allow for the sustainability of the river's pike population. Provincial pike regulations will apply from the Highway 24 bridge to the Bassano Dam, although a total bait ban will be recommended.

4. **Current provincial regulations should apply for all other sport fish species found in the lower Bow River**

   Reason:

   a. Other species (e.g., burbot, perch, bull trout, cutthroat trout, etc.) are incidental in the Bow River and general provincial angling regulations should provide sufficient protection.

Public response and comments:

There was majority agreement among respondents with the recommendations provided for this section of the lower Bow River.

There were at least 186 responses to the general recommendations, with a range of unconditional agreement from 83% (Current provincial regulations should apply for all other sport fish species found in the lower Bow River) to 65% (Northern Pike - limit of three with no size limit). Where was some disagreement (20% of respondents) with the proposed northern pike regulations for the lower Bow River, among the twenty-two (22) comments, people indicated there should be only catch and release for pike (45%) or that the provincial regulation for pike should apply to the lower Bow River (36%).

Additional Recommendations

Committee members agreed their recommendations should support both the regulations proposals and the results of the public involvement process. Some recommendations were beyond the scope of the Committee (i.e., not focused on fisheries regulations). They felt it was important that these additional observations and recommendations be brought to the attention of AENV and the Minister, for consideration in the future or in other planning or program initiatives.

Monitoring and Data Collection

Recommendations:

With the change in the regulations it is important that adequate data are consistently collected on an ongoing basis to ensure regulations are having the desired effect. This will ensure that the fish population is sustained. As part of data collection, the Committee recommends that the carrying capacity for trout and whitefish on the lower Bow River be determined.

The Committee specifically recommends the following in support of the Committee's regulation proposals:

- Assess the impact of catch and release angling on spawning and staging fish, spawning success and immediate mortality in the Bow River study area.
- Monitoring of age recruitment.
- Spawning redd surveys.
- That a fisheries management plan review process be defined that allows for future stakeholder and public involvement.
- That those areas of the lower Bow River where little or no fisheries data exist, notably the portion of the river that runs through the Siksika First Nation, be inventoried with the active cooperation and participation of the First Nation's environmental managers.
- That adequate funding be dedicated to fisheries monitoring and data collection.

Discussion:

During the public consultation process, the Committee ensured the need for fisheries monitoring and data collection was explored. Participants supported the need to address and implement an ongoing monitoring and data collection program (see Appendix 4). They believed consistent, ongoing fisheries monitoring, the availability of up-to-date and comprehensive fisheries data and involvement of stakeholders and the public in future fisheries management planning on the lower Bow River, will be necessary over the long term. The Committee recognizes that there are a number of organizations at the federal, provincial and municipal levels of government working to ensure that the Bow River watershed is monitored and managed to ensure the ecosystem is sustained (e.g., use of available tools for water and land management provided through the Water Act).

During the fisheries management, public involvement and recommendation process for the lower Bow River, the Committee noted that the Siksika First Nation people who attended workshops were interested in the opportunity to participate in fisheries management of the reach of the river running through their lands. AENV should be encouraged and supported in making cooperative arrangements with Siksika First Nation's environmental managers to undertake a fisheries inventory of the lower Bow River, through their lands.

The Committee believes that adequate funding for ongoing, long term fisheries monitoring and data collection is essential to maintaining the special nature and value of the lower Bow River. A management plan should be prepared that outlines monitoring and data collection costs so that dedicated, long term funding can be provided.

Health of the River

Recommendation:

The Committee recommends up-to-date environmental assessments, ongoing water quality monitoring for the effects of wastewater and runoff water into the lower Bow River be addressed for potential effects on the fishery. Specifically:

- Monitor potential land use activities and land use changes to determine the effect on the health of the river and sustainability of fish populations.
- When changes in land use are anticipated, their cumulative impact on fisheries must be considered.

Discussion:

The Committee recognizes and respects there are other provincial and municipal planning and ongoing advisory processes that will affect decision making on the overall health of the Bow River, including the lower Bow River. The Committee wishes to ensure environmental impact and assessment processes clearly account for the valuable fishery in the lower Bow River. Workshop participants expressed concern that the river be protected from human activities within the watershed. They indicated it was very important that any river planning result in regional land use bylaws that protect both the health of the river and riparian habitat. Fisheries management should be integrated into a comprehensive plan for recreation and environmental management. The Committee is aware that there is a integrated approach being taken to identify and implement instream flow objectives for the Bow River.

Adequate Flow

Recommendation:

Water flow in the lower Bow River be continuously monitored to ensure that sufficient flow is maintained to sustain a healthy fishery.

Discussion:

Adequate water flow was identified as a fisheries management concern during the public involvement workshops. As with the "Health of the River" theme, previously discussed, the committee recognizes and respects that there are other provincial and municipal planning, regulatory and ongoing advisory processes that will affect decision making regarding the maintenance of adequate flow in all reaches of the Bow River. Related concerns include loss of fish into irrigation canals and obstruction of fish movement as a result of water control structures (e.g., weirs, irrigation outlets). The significance of the fish loss to canals from the Bow River should be determined.

Regulations and Enforcement

a. *Recommendation:*

A public awareness and information program should be provided for people and organizations using, occupying and regulating land within the watershed of the lower Bow River. The Committee believes this would assist users, landowners and municipalities to better understand the fishery, the species of fish that inhabit the river and the potential impact that human activities (e.g., angling, effluent releases, and landscape alteration) may have on fish populations.

Discussion:

There was strong interest from the Committee and the public in enforcement of fisheries regulations. The Committee acknowledged a responsibility and apparent willingness of river users (represented, for example, by the voluntary catch and release angling that is occurring) to minimize their impact on the Bow River and watershed. The Committee believes the regulatory recommendations presented in this report are a good first step in simplifying the rules for anglers, allowing for increased voluntary compliance.

The Committee recognizes there are non-government, industry and government organizations such as the Bow River Water Council, which are addressing the need for public awareness and voluntary compliance to maintain the health of the Bow River. Any initiatives for public awareness and information related to the lower Bow River should recognize the leadership and coordination that is already provided by organizations such as the Bow River Water Council.

b. *Recommendation:*

Motorized water craft not be allowed between the Bearspaw Dam in Calgary and the Carseland Dam.

Discussion:

During the public workshops there were two action items identified and evaluated regarding prohibition of motorized water craft; one suggesting prohibition on the whole of the lower Bow River and another suggesting prohibition between the Bearspaw and Carseland Dams. Both received strong support (65% and 82% agreement, respectively). Committee members agree that there is a user conflict regarding motorized water craft in this section of the lower Bow River.

Fisheries Management and Regulatory Requirements for Angling on the Lower Bow River

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

FINAL REPORT

APPENDIX 1

Public Consultation Terms of Reference

Public Consultation Terms of Reference and Guidelines for Fisheries Management Review of the Lower Bow River

Current Situation

Use pressures on the fishery in lower Bow River (Calgary to Bassano area) have been increasing. The angling regulations are complex; there are eight subsections of the lower Bow River, each with their own regulations (some dating back to the 1970s). There is a requirement for a management and regulations review and the preparation of recommendations to ensure the maintenance of the fishery. Because of the high number of users in the area, public consultation will be critical to the fisheries management review and recommendations.

Decision Statement

Recommend angling regulations to help manage fisheries on the lower Bow River and support healthy, sustainable game fish populations.

Need for Public Involvement

The Fisheries and Wildlife Management Division, Natural Resources Service, Alberta Environment has a commitment to public involvement in decision making.

Alberta Environment will gain the benefit of guidance in the design, delivery and consideration of responses collected during the public consultation process.

Alberta Environment will benefit from public comment and support for a better set of fisheries management regulations in the long term.

All participants will benefit through opportunities to learn about the condition of the fishery and by sharing their perceptions and perspectives.

Public Involvement Objectives

To identify key community and public interest groups and people who should be encouraged to participate.

To support participation from key public interest groups and other people.

To obtain information from the public that will assist in decision making.

To identify and understand the perspective and concerns of various stakeholders and communities of interest.

To provide adequate information for participants to comment on and evaluate optional fisheries management regulations for the lower Bow River.

To enhance public understanding and foster support for appropriate fisheries management regulations on the lower Bow River.

Public Involvement Principles

The process will be designed to support ongoing, open and co-operative dialogue.

The process will be designed to support participation and data collection from the public.

Information and opportunities to participate will be provided as soon as possible and throughout the public consultation process.

Participants will be informed of the results and recommendations.

The consultation must be conducted fairly and perceived to be fair by participants.

The consultation will be designed to be open, responsive and flexible to any changing needs and circumstances.

Scope of Public Involvement

A broad range of community and public interests have been identified, including:

Bow River Basin Water Council.

Environmental Non-government Organization.

First Nations.

City of Calgary, Parks and Recreation.

Alberta Fish and Game Association.

Bow River Guides.

Retail Industry.

General Anglers (unaffiliated with any organization).

Trout Unlimited.

Communities of New Canadians residing in the region.

Developers, Ranchers, Golf Course Managers.

Youth - Teenage Anglers.

Disabled Anglers.

Use of Public Consultation

To assist in developing fisheries management regulations for the lower Bow River.

Reviewed and confirmed by Advisory Committee - December 1, 1999

Alberta
ENVIRONMENT

Fisheries Management and Regulatory Requirements for Angling on the Lower Bow River

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

FINAL REPORT

APPENDIX 2
Workshop Information

Alberta
ENVIRONMENT

BULLETIN

February 2000

Alberta Environment is conducting a review of fisheries management on the lower Bow River

The Bow River is well-known as a world class "blue ribbon" trout fishery. To maintain the long-term integrity of the fishery, Alberta Environment has proposed a review of fisheries management and angling regulations on the lower Bow River.

The portion of the lower Bow River being considered extends about 240 kilometres downstream of the Bearspaw Dam in Calgary, to Bassano (see Map, page 4). Approximately 850,000 people, most of whom reside in Calgary, rely on the Bow River for recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, irrigation and livestock watering. The river's ecosystem also supports important fish and wildlife communities.

Why is a fisheries management review of the lower Bow needed?

The current angling regulations for the lower Bow River are based on several fisheries management plans and initiatives, some of which date back to the early 1980s. Over the years, changes to the angling regulations have been made to accommodate increasing numbers of people fishing the lower Bow River, and changes occurring in the fishery itself. The regulations have become complex, fragmented and difficult to understand.

The Review will identify specific fisheries management objectives that consider all users of the lower Bow River. Simplified regulations that are based on the most current biological information will be developed to ensure that the integrity of the fishery is maintained.

Public consultation process

Alberta Environment is committed to including public consultation as part of their decision-making process. This provides interested individuals and groups an opportunity to learn about and provide advice on fisheries objectives and requirements for angling regulations on the lower Bow River.

Other benefits of the public consultation process are:

- Participants can learn about the condition of the fishery by sharing their perceptions and perspectives with other members of the public and Alberta Environment staff.
- Public input and support will help Alberta Environment design and implement a better set of fisheries management regulations for the lower Bow River.

Objectives of the Review

The lower Bow River fisheries management review will:

- Identify interested individuals and groups who should be encouraged to participate in the Review.
- Ensure information about fisheries management regulations is available to all individuals and groups that wish to participate in the Review.
- Provide an open forum for two-way communication about fisheries management regulations for all interested individuals and groups.
- Learn about participants' concerns and recommendations regarding fishery management regulations.
- Enhance public understanding and foster support for fisheries management regulations that will sustain healthy fish populations on the lower Bow River.

Role of the Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee has been formed to provide advice from a stakeholder's point of view. The Committee's role is to:

- Represent a diverse range interests.
- Report to and advise Alberta Environment as follows:
  - ~ Provide a "third party" review and make recommendations in support of an open and fair process.
  - ~ Provide advice and recommendations about the public consultation process.
  - ~ Review comments from the public workshops and provide advice and recommendations on management and regulatory options that meet identified fisheries management objectives in the lower Bow River.

Opportunities to participate

There will be four, three-hour workshops:

Date	Location	Time
Feb. 15, 2000	Siksika First Nation Community Hall Siksika, AB	7:00 to 10:00 PM
Feb. 16, 2000	Wheatland County Inn 960 Westridge Road, Strathmore, AB	7:00 to 10:00 PM
Feb. 21, 2000	Carriage House Inn 9600 Macleod Trail SW, Calgary, AB	7:00 to 10:00 PM
Feb. 22, 2000	Carriage House Inn 9600 Macleod Trail SW, Calgary, AB	7:00 to 10:00 PM

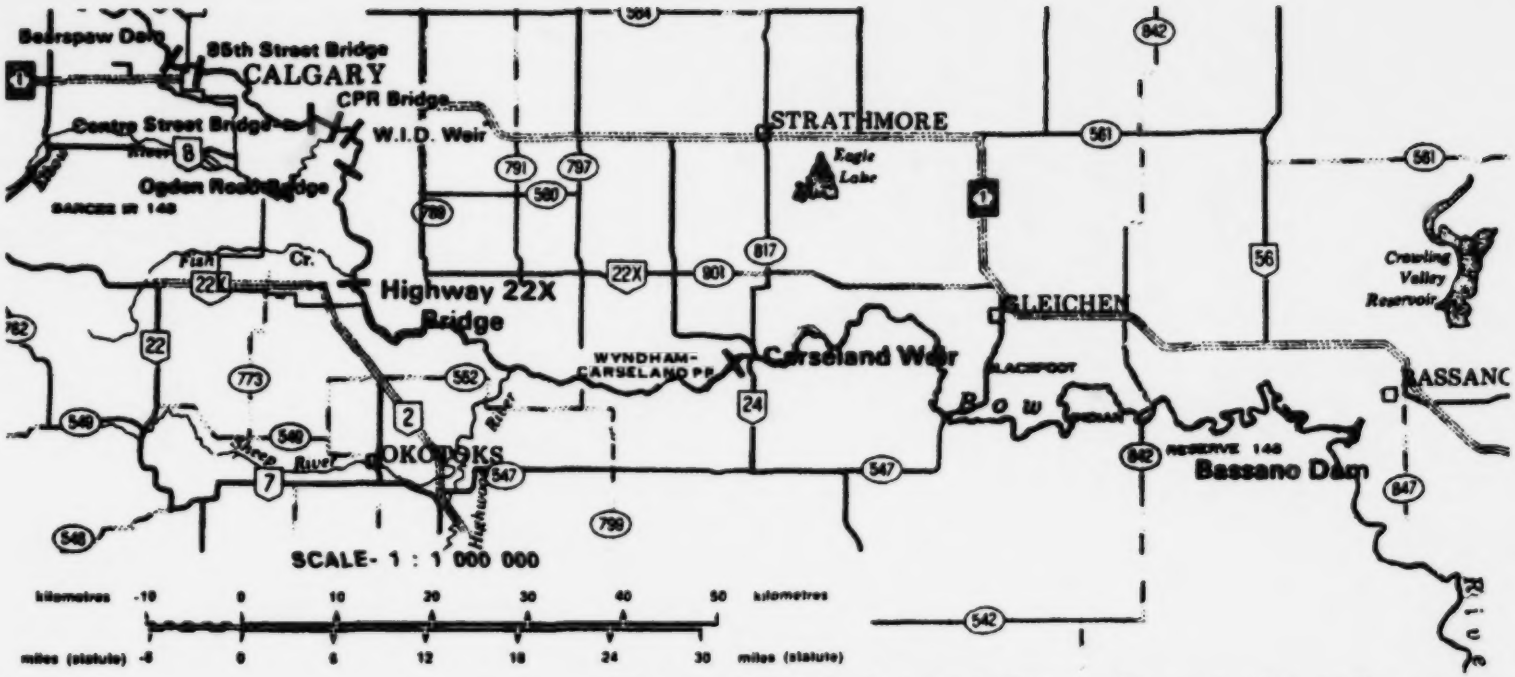
Each workshop will begin at 7:00 PM sharp, will:

- Provide information about fisheries management regulations on the lower Bow River.
- Provide an opportunity for public comment and discussion about a range of considerations that will ensure a successful approach to fisheries management on the lower Bow River.

If you cannot attend any of the workshops but still wish to participate, you are welcome to complete a mail-in survey.

If you are planning to attend a workshop (in order to accommodate participation) or wish to have a survey and information mailed to you, please contact:

Equus Consulting Group
toll free at 1-800-361-9362, by fax at 1-888-423-4745,
or by email at mailbox@equusgroup.com.



The area under review begins at the Bearspaw Dam and ends at the Bassano Dam.

Lower Bow River Fisheries Management Public Workshop

Thank you for taking this opportunity to have input into the review of fisheries management on the lower Bow River.

During the workshop, the facilitator will review identified concerns, management results and potential management actions regarding fisheries management on the lower Bow River. There will be opportunity to raise any other concerns, management results and potential management actions. OptionFinder®, an electronic decision support system, will then be used to evaluate identified concerns, management results and potential management actions.

The following worksheets are designed to allow to you follow along and record your responses if you wish to take them home with you.

A Little About Yourself

Which of the following BEST describes your interest in the lower Bow River? ***(Check one only)***

Fly Fishing	First Nations	Recreational Boating
Bait Fishing	Land Owner	Other Recreational User
Spin Fishing	Land Developer	Fishing Guide/Fishing Equipment Retailer
Environmental/Conservation		Other:_____

Lower Bow River Fisheries Concerns

What considerations should be looked at in developing fisheries management objectives and angling regulations for the lower Bow River?

Using the OptionFinder® keypad, please indicate the level of importance for the following considerations, using the scale below:

1	2	3	4	5
Very Unimportant	Unimportant	No Opinion	Important	Very Important

Consideration	Level of Importance 1	2	3	4	5
Availability of up-to-date and comprehensive fisheries data					
Ongoing fisheries monitoring					
Access to and impact of angling on spawning areas					
Access and angling pressure on fish that are concentrated and waiting to spawn (i.e., staging downstream from spawning areas)					
Fishing pressure increases as the regional population grows					
Public education and communication					
Stakeholder and public involvement in fishery management reviews					
Enforcement of angling regulations					
Simplify current fisheries management regulations					
Prohibit use of bait to reduce mortality through catch and release					
River contamination/health of the river					
Up to date environmental assessment					
Access and development in the riparian area (e.g., bridges as part of access)					
Water quality monitoring					
Instream habitat structures to enhance fish habitat					
Consideration for water withdrawal - concern about adequate flow					
Obstruction of fish movement (e.g. weirs)					
First Nation's perspective: consider traditional knowledge					
Waste water effects on fish populations					
Compliance with and monitoring of fishing regulations					
Transboundary issues with First Nations (access across First Nation's lands, coordination of enforcement with provincial officers and First Nations)					
Better communications with First Nations					
Gear types affecting angling mortality - treble versus single hooks					
Bait fishing where there is mandatory catch and release or size limits					

Consideration	Level of Importance 1	2	3	4	5
Number of guides on the river					
Ability of regulations to respond quickly to data indicating deterioration of the fishery					
Need for more fishing access sites along the Bow River					
Loss of fish into canals: need for fish screen					
Minimum water flow below Bassano Dam					
Water flow end to end: concern about increased mortality rates of spawning fish as a result of reduced water flow below Carseland Weir (water temperature increase)					

Lower Bow River Management Results

What results would you like to see achieved from fisheries management on the lower Bow River?

Using the OptionFinder® keypad, please indicate the level of importance for the following results, using the scale below:

1	2	3	4	5
Very Unimportant	Unimportant	No Opinion	Important	Very Important

Results	Level of Importance 1	2	3	4	5
A naturally sustainable fisheries resource with a stable, healthy population					
Protected spawning habitat					
Protect incubating fish eggs until they hatch					
Protect spawning fish from angling					
Fisheries habitat protected from outside impacts (e.g., human activities that result in habitat destruction)					

Results	Level of Importance 1	2	3	4	5
Angling regulations that reflect the uniqueness of the fishery					
Angling regulations that are based on sound biology					
Allow people to keep fish if sustainability of the fishery will not be impacted					
Restrict fish harvest to maximize the numbers and size of fish					
Manage the lower Bow River to increase the numbers of trout and mountain whitefish					
Maintaining a high quality trout fishery					
Sport fishery regulations that are straightforward and easy to understand					
More fisheries data on the portion the Lower Bow within Siksika First Nation					
Ensure adequate monitoring of fisheries on First Nation land					
Create awareness among First Nation peoples for protection of habitat, spawning areas and fish populations					
Acceptable number of guides on the river					
Regulations that result in heavy concentrations of anglers (e.g. bait fishing allowed within a small area)					
Leave most of the River open year round except for high density spawning areas					

Potential Management Actions to Consider

What actions need to be taken to ensure positive fisheries management on the lower Bow River?

Using the OptionFinder® keypad, please indicate your level of agreement with the following proposed actions:

Action	Disagree	Agree, with Conditions	Agree	No Opinion
Ensure sufficient biological fisheries information is available for valid decision making				

Action	Disagree	Agree, with Conditions	Agree	No Opinion
Hold regular reviews of the management plan to ensure it supports the principles and expectations for the fishery				
Where fisheries data is not available, ensure the management plan conserves fish stocks				
Hold regular public reviews on the management plan to ensure it supports the principles and expectations for the fishery				
Public education that leads to compliance with regulations and use.				
Support for enforcement with angler involvement (e.g. Report a Poacher Program approach)				
Restrict further development of obstructions to fish movement				
Funding support for increased studies				
Studies that compare the Siksika First Nation portion of the Lower Bow fish populations with the rest of the river				
Restrictions on gear with regard to catch and release to reduce injury/death				
Mechanism to inform and support compliance of anglers regarding requirements for access on Siksika First Nation lands				
Keep the river open to angling if there is no scientific reason to close it				
Keep the river open to angling where there is little evidence to show that angling has an impact				
Use education as a tool rather than regulations (e.g. identifying redds, staying off redds, not angling to spawning fish)				
Enhance regulations to prohibit the use of lead on the river (i.e., weights, heads, etc.)				
Use zero limit: no bait as a management tool instead of widespread total closures (for non-high density spawning areas)				
Encourage public participation in management plan reviews through a range of communication and awareness methods				
Restrict outside impacts (i.e., construction) to those times when they will have minimal impacts on spawning fish.				
Promote harvest of underutilized species (e.g., whitefish, pike, burbot)				
Manage for pike in the lower portion of the Bow River (e.g., downstream of Crowfoot Crossing)				

Action	Disagree	Agree, with Conditions	Agree	No Opinion

Additional Notes

Thank you for attending the workshop.

Please leave your keypad on the table. If you have not already done so, please sign in on the registration sheet, including your mailing address. This will ensure that you will be kept informed as the review of fisheries management on the lower Bow River continues.

If you have any questions about the review, contact:
Jim Gendron, Equus Consulting Group - (780) 423-4731 or toll free at 1-800-361-9362

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Alberta
ENVIRONMENT

Fisheries Management and Regulatory Requirements for Angling on the Lower Bow River

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

FINAL REPORT

APPENDIX 3
Initial Survey

Alberta
ENVIRONMENT

February 2000

Alberta Environment is conducting a review of fisheries management on the lower Bow River

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The portion of the lower Bow River being considered extends about 240 kilometres downstream of the Bearspaw Dam in Calgary, to Bassano. Approximately 850,000 people, most of whom reside in Calgary, rely on the Bow River for recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, irrigation and livestock watering. The river's ecosystem also supports important fish and wildlife communities.

Why is a fisheries management review of the lower Bow needed?

The current angling regulations for the lower Bow River are based on several fisheries management plans and initiatives, some of which date back to the early 1980s. Over the years, changes to the angling regulations have been made to accommodate increasing numbers of people fishing the lower Bow River, and changes occurring to the fishery itself. The regulations have become complex, fragmented and difficult to understand.

The Review will identify specific fisheries management objectives that consider all users of the lower Bow River. Simplified regulations that are based on the most current biological information will be developed to ensure that the integrity of the fishery is maintained.

The Survey

This survey was developed to provide an opportunity for people not able to attend one of the workshops in February to have input into the public consultation process.

Please complete this survey by March 1, 2000

Fax* or mail the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to:

*(for purposes of faxing, please remember that this is a two-sided document)

FAX: (780) 423-4745 or toll free 1-888-423-4745

If you have any questions about the survey, contact:

Jim Gendron, Equus Consulting Group - (780) 423-4731 or toll free at 1-800-361-9362

Lower Bow River Fisheries Concerns

What considerations should be looked at in developing fisheries management objectives and angling regulations for the lower Bow River?

Please indicate the level of importance for the following considerations, using the scale below:

1	2	3	4	5
Very Unimportant	Unimportant	No Opinion	Important	Very Important

	Level of Importance				
Consideration	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Availability of up-to-date and comprehensive fisheries data					
Ongoing fisheries monitoring					
Access to and impact of angling on spawning areas					
Access and angling pressure on fish that are concentrated and waiting to spawn (i.e., staging downstream from spawning areas)					
Fishing pressure increases as the regional population grows					
Public education and communication					
Stakeholder and public involvement in fishery management reviews					
Enforcement of angling regulations					
Simplify current fisheries management regulations					
Prohibit use of bait to reduce mortality through catch and release					

Other Considerations:

Lower Bow River Management Results

What results would you like to see achieved from fisheries management on the lower Bow River?

Please indicate the level of importance for the following results, using the scale below:

1	2	3	4	5
Very Unimportant	Unimportant	No Opinion	Important	Very Important

	Level of Importance				
Results	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
A naturally sustainable fisheries resource with a stable, healthy population					
Protected spawning habitat					
Protect incubating fish eggs until they hatch					
Protect spawning fish from angling					
Fisheries habitat protected from outside impacts (e.g., human activities that result in habitat destruction)					
Angling regulations that reflect the uniqueness of the fishery					
Angling regulations that are based on sound biology					
Allow people to keep fish if sustainability of the fishery will not be impacted					
Restrict fish harvest to maximize the numbers and size of fish					
Manage the lower Bow River to increase the numbers of trout and mountain whitefish					
Maintaining a high quality trout fishery					
Sport fishery regulations that are straightforward and easy to understand					

Other Principles:

Potential Management Actions to Consider

What actions need to be taken to ensure positive fisheries management on the lower Bow River?

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following proposed actions:

Action	Disagree	Agree, with Conditions	Agree	No Opinion
Ensure sufficient biological fisheries information is available for valid decision making				

Comments:

Hold regular reviews of the management plan to ensure it supports the principles and expectations for the fishery

Comments:

Where fisheries data is not available, ensure the management plan conserves fish stocks

Comments:

Other Actions:

A Little About Yourself

Which of the following BEST describes your interest in the lower Bow River? ***(Check one only)***

Fly Fishing	First Nations	Recreational Boating
Bait Fishing	Land Owner	Other Recreational User
Spin Fishing	Land Developer	Fishing Guide/Fishing Equipment Retailer
Environmental/Conservation		Other:_____

Additional Comments

Thank you for completing the survey.

Please fax or mail in the enclosed postage-paid envelope, by March 1, 2000, to:

Fax: (780) 423-4745/toll-free 1-888-423-4745

If you have any questions about the survey, contact:
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February 7, 2000

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Alberta
ENVIRONMENT

Fisheries Management and Regulatory Requirements for Angling on the Lower Bow River

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

FINAL REPORT

APPENDIX 4

Workshop/Initial Survey Combined Results

Description

In late January and early February 2000, over 1,900 information bulletins were circulated in the region advising of the opportunity to participate in the review of fisheries management on the lower Bow River. Circulation included members of Trout Unlimited, Alberta Fish and Game Association, Calgary Board of Education, Bow River Anglers Association, Environmental Non-Government Organizations, Siksika First Nation, Calgary Area Retailers and Outfitters and vendors of fishing licences.

Four public workshops, held in February 2000, were designed to identify and evaluate issues, needs and concerns, desired results and potential actions for fishery management on the lower Bow River. A total of 97 participants attended the workshops held in Siksika, Strathmore and two in Calgary. For those interested in the lower Bow fisheries management review, but unable to attend (177), a survey following the agenda format of the workshops was mailed. As of March 13, 2000, one hundred and eight (108) completed surveys were received (a response rate of 61%).

The workshops and the survey covered three areas:

1) Review and evaluation of **concerns** regarding the lower Bow River.
2) Review and evaluation of **desired management results**.
3) Review and evaluation of **potential management actions**.

In each area, workshop participants reviewed identified items (concerns, results, actions) and added to them. Using OptionFinder®, an electronic decision support system, participants then rated the level of importance of identified concerns and desired results. They also indicated their level of agreement with identified potential actions to achieve the desired results. Five participants chose not to participate in the evaluation segments of the workshop.

Survey respondents reviewed identified items (concerns, results, actions) in each area and added to them. Respondents rated the level of importance of identified concerns and desired results. They also indicated their level of agreement with identified potential actions to achieve the desired results.

Stakeholder Categories

Both workshop participants and survey respondents indicated which of the following BEST described their interest in the lower Bow River. N=number of respondents.

Category	Workshop (N=92)	Survey (N=108)
Fly Fishing	63%	62%
Bait Fishing	3%	4%
Spin Fishing	1%	4%
First Nations	1%	-

Category	Workshop (N=92)	Survey (N=108)
Land Owner	1%	2%
Land Developer	2%	-
Recreational Boating	-	3%
Other Recreational User	-	2%
Fishing Guide/Fishing Equipment Retailer	15%	5%
Environmental/Conservation	13%	16%
Other	-	2%

Workshop/Survey Results

For the following sections, results are grouped into ten (10) common theme areas:

AC Access
AF Adequate Flow
BF Bait Fishing
FM Fish Movement
FN First Nations
HP Habitat Protection and Management
HR Health of the River
MD Monitoring and Data Collection
PS Protection of Spawning Areas
RE Regulations and Enforcement

Lower Bow River Fisheries Concerns

Workshop participants reviewed and added to a list of concerns (original list items are shaded). As additional concerns were identified at each workshop they were carried forward to the remaining workshops. They then rated the level of importance of each identified concern, using a scale from 1=very unimportant to 5=very important.

Survey respondents reviewed and added a list of concerns (original list items are shaded). They then rated the level of importance of each identified concern, using a scale from 1=very unimportant to 5=very important.

Mean results are reported below. N=number of respondents.

		Workshops		Survey	
Theme	Concern	Mean	N	Mean	N
AC	Need for more fishing access sites along the Bow River	*2.9*	84		
AC	Poor public access - lack of sites	*2.9*	71		

Theme	Concern	Workshops		Survey	
		Mean	N	Mean	N
AC	Limit number of guide boats/Limit commercial guiding activity/Establishment of maximum # of fishing guides.			*5.0*	3
AC	Make access easier for those without boats (expensive tour boats are dominating the river).			*5.0*	1
AF	Consideration for water withdrawal - concern about adequate flow	*4.5*	90		
AF	Water flow end to end: concern about increased mortality rates of spawning fish as a result of reduced water flow below Carseland Weir (water temperature increase)	*4.3*	83		
AF	Minimum water flow below Bassano Dam	*3.8*	81		
AF	Enforcement of H20 taken by irrigation.			*5.0*	1
AF	Minimum in-stream flows to ensure adequate water levels.			*5.0*	1
AF	Encourage Calgary to "catch" stormwater before it enters the Bow.			*4.0*	1
BF	**Prohibit use of bait to reduce mortality through catch and release**	*4.2*	90	*4.5*	107
BF	Bait fishing where there is mandatory catch and release or size limits	*4.2*	91		
BF	Prohibit all bait on all species/To simplify current regulations specify no bait usage at all on Bow River because we have lots of stocked lakes for taking out fish.			*5.0*	2
BF	No bait fishing below the Carseland Weir at spawning time of Brown Trout.			*5.0*	1
FM	Loss of fish into canals: need for fish screen	*4.5*	83		
FM	Obstruction of fish movement (e.g. weirs, irrigation outlets)	*4.2*	86		
FM	Carseland fish ladder	*3.9*	29		
FM	Eliminate loss of sport fish into irrigation canals/Fish loss in irrigation canals lacking fish exclusion devices			*5.0*	2
FM	Improvement of fish ladder at Carseland Weir.			*5.0*	1
FN	Better communications with First Nations	*3.5*	88		
FN	Transboundary issues with First Nations (access across First Nation's lands, coordination of enforcement with provincial officers and First Nations)	*3.4*	89		
FN	First Nation's perspective: consider traditional knowledge	*2.6*	89		
FN	Prohibit abuse of regulations by Natives.			*5.0*	1

Theme	Concern	Workshops Mean	Workshops N	Survey Mean	Survey N
HP	Instream habitat structures to enhance fish habitat	*3.0*	87		
HP	Building restrictions to provide natural habitat.			*5.0*	1
HP	Streambank degradation avion predators.			*5.0*	1
HP	Enforcement of chemical farming pollutants.			*5.0*	1
HP	Preservation of riparian habitat.			*5.0*	1
HR	River contamination/health of the river	*4.7*	90		
HR	Water quality monitoring	*4.6*	91		
HR	Waste water effects on fish populations	*4.3*	90		
HR	Up to date environmental assessment	*4.3*	87		
HR	Access and development in the riparian area (e.g., bridges)	*3.9*	90		
HR	Number of cattle in the Bow River and on islands around Carseland: damage to banks, excrement in river	*3.7*	29		
HR	Livestock access to the waterway/Livestock management (fencing)/Destruction of river banks by cattle.			*5.0*	3
HR	Cure the Carseland Irrigation Weir Catastrophe			*5.0*	1
MD	Ongoing fisheries monitoring	*4.6*	86	*4.5*	106
MD	Revision plan	*4.6*	29		
MD	Availability of up-to-date and comprehensive fisheries data	*4.5*	91	*4.4*	106
MD	Stakeholder and public involvement in fishery management reviews	*4.2*	87	*4.3*	104
MD	Effect of bait bans on fish populations	*4.1*	76		
MD	Fishing pressure increases as the regional population grows	*4.0*	90	*4.2*	107
MD	Gear types affecting angling mortality - treble versus single hooks	*3.9*	91		
MD	Present habitat quality in areas of high public use	*3.9*	29		
MD	Winter angler use on the river (particularly in the city)	*2.7*	73		
MD	Percent and number of anglers that use nets and effect of net use	*2.1*	72		
MD	Consultation prior to development.			*5.0*	1
MD	Intelligent review of facts.			*5.0*	1

Theme	Concern	Workshops Mean	Workshops N	Survey Mean	Survey N
MD	Designate stretches as fish sanctuaries to act as benchmarks (no fishing).			*5.0*	1
PS	**Access to and impact of angling on spawning areas**	*4.5*	86	*4.6*	106
PS	**Access and angling pressure on fish that are concentrated and waiting to spawn (i.e., staging downstream from spawning areas)**	*4.4*	90	*4.6*	106
PS	Closures around specific staging areas	*4.2*	75		
PS	Wading through spawning areas	*4.2*	72		
PS	Identify spawning areas.			*5.0*	1
RE	**Enforcement of angling regulations**	*4.7*	91	*4.7*	107
RE	Enforcement of regulations	*4.6*	27		
RE	Compliance with and monitoring of fishing regulations	*4.5*	88		
RE	Ability of regulations to respond quickly to data indicating deterioration of the fishery	*4.5*	82		
RE	**Public education and communication**	*4.2*	90	*4.4*	106
RE	Emergency regulations	*4.1*	29		
RE	**Simplify current fisheries management regulations**	*3.7*	90	*3.7*	107
RE	Number of guides on the river	*3.2*	92		
RE	Fee for guides using the river	*3.2*	75		
RE	No power boats from Bearspaw to Carseland/Prohibit use of all motorized craft/Prohibit use of motors, Calgary downstream to Carseland Dam (including enforcement)/Ensure motorized craft kept off river to ensure pollutant free waters (noise & exhaust)/no motors.			*5.0*	5
RE	Limited size of motor on Bow from Bearspaw to Carseland/ Restrictions of gas powered motors/"Traffic" management on Bow River (number of boats)/No rubber raft, boat parties/No more guide boats (>12 at any time; reduce).			*4.8*	5
RE	Catch and release for entire river system/Establish "no harvest, no bait" throughout the Lower Bow/Catch and release right up to Bearspaw Dam			*5.0*	3
RE	Tougher fines for those who abuse regulations/Bigger fines for poachers.			*4.7*	3

		Workshops		Survey	
Theme	Concern	Mean	N	Mean	N
RE	Ban treble hooks from spin fishing - single hook only/Single barbless hook: reduce fish scarring.			*5.0*	2
RE	From Highway 22x to Carseland Weir should be catch and release for 5 years starting 2000 to 2006.			*5.0*	1
RE	Dedicated enforcement to a water shed. A portion of an angling license would go directly to pay the wage of a full time on the water enforcement.			*5.0*	1
RE	Spin fisherman, spinners and spoons (1) single hook.			*5.0*	1
RE	Reduce angling pressure.			*4.0*	1
RE	Licensing all users - raft, canoe.			*4.0*	1

Lower Bow River Management Results

Workshop participants reviewed and added to a list of desired management results (original list items are shaded). As additional results were identified at each workshop they were carried forward to the remaining workshops. They then rated the level of importance of each desired result, using a scale from 1=very unimportant to 5=very important.

Survey respondents reviewed and added a list of desired management results (original list items are shaded). They then rated the level of importance of each desired result, using a scale from 1=very unimportant to 5=very important.

Mean results are reported below. N=number of respondents

		Workshops		Survey	
Theme	Desired Result	Mean	N	Mean	N
AC	Limit guides/boats.			*5.0*	1
AC	Better access for those without boats.			*5.0*	1
AF	Deepest possible H2O flow for H2O temperature important to push etc.			*5.0*	1
AF	Sustained water levels.			*5.0*	1
AF	Regulate water flows to Bassano Dam to insure fisheries.			*5.0*	1
BF	Regulations that result in heavy concentrations of anglers should be avoided (e.g., bait fishing allowed within a small area)	*4.0*	90		
BF	Reinstate bait in more areas	*2.0*	74		

Theme	Desired Result	Workshops Mean	Workshops N	Survey Mean	Survey N
BF	No bait ban/Permanent bait ban.			*5.0*	3
FM	Install fish traps to prevent fish migration into channels, canals etc./Irrigation canals to construct & maintain fish exclusion devices.			*5.0*	2
FM	Larger fish stocking.			*5.0*	1
FM	Restrict or eliminate the gross impact of the Carseland Irrigation Intake.			*5.0*	1
FM	Implement fish rescue program i.e., TUC.			*5.0*	1
FM	A program to prevent fish from going into canals - a 7-10 year sustained solution.			*5.0*	1
FM	Do not create artificially high populations.			*4.0*	1
FM	Introduced species can be supplemented if needed.			*4.0*	1
FN	Create awareness among First Nation peoples for protection of habitat, spawning areas and fish populations	*3.8*	90		
FN	Ensure adequate monitoring of fisheries on First Nation land	*3.7*	90		
FN	More fisheries data on the portion the Lower Bow within Siksika First Nation	*3.5*	89		
FN	Cumulative effect assessment of ecosystem thresholds	*3.5*	29		
HP	Maintaining a high quality trout fishery	*4.7*	91	*4.7*	107
HP	Fisheries habitat protected from outside impacts (e.g., human activities that result in habitat destruction)	*4.7*	88	*4.7*	107
HP	A naturally sustainable fisheries resource with a stable, healthy population	*4.7*	87	*4.8*	106
HP	Maintain the high numbers of large fish in the Lower Bow to maintain the uniqueness of the fishery	*4.4*	73		
HP	Manage the lower Bow River to increase the numbers of trout and mountain whitefish	*4.1*	89	*4.3*	107
HP	More biological staff	*4.1*	74		
HP	Protection and possible enhancement of riparian habitat (i.e., limit beaver damage)	*4.1*	29		
HP	Control pollution via development (i.e., golf courses).			*4.0*	1
HR	Regional land use bylaws that protect the river and riparian habitat	*4.7*	73		
HR	Integration of fisheries management into a comprehensive recreation and environmental plan for the lower Bow River	*4.2*	29		

Theme	Desired Result	Workshops Mean	Workshops N	Survey Mean	Survey N
HR	Pollution free H2O for all/Clean water.			*5.0*	2
HR	Stable healthy populations of all naturally occurring aquatic organisms.			*5.0*	1
HR	Access for cattle to Bow River should be severely restricted.			*5.0*	1
HR	Encourage people to not litter the river.			*5.0*	1
MD	An understanding of what the carrying capacity is of the river for trout and whitefish	*4.3*	75		
MD	Commitment to ongoing monitoring program to drive adaptive management of the Bow River	*4.2*	29		
MD	Increase in spending/funding methods to address concerns associated with high impact areas	*4.2*	28		
MD	Commitment to ongoing creel surveys	*3.9*	29		
PS	Protected spawning habitat	*4.7*	89	*4.8*	107
PS	Protect spawning fish from angling	*4.3*	90	*4.6*	106
PS	Protect incubating fish eggs until they hatch	*4.2*	85	*4.5*	106
RE	Angling regulations that are based on sound biology	*4.6*	91	*4.6*	105
RE	Maintain enforcement throughout the season	*4.5*	73		
RE	Restrict fish harvest to maximize the numbers and size of fish	*4.4*	91	*4.3*	106
RE	Decrease in illegal angling activities	*4.4*	74		
RE	Angling regulations that reflect the uniqueness of the fishery	*4.2*	89	*4.5*	107
RE	Sport fishery regulations that are straightforward and easy to understand	*4.2*	90	*4.2*	107
RE	Leave most of the River open year round except for high density spawning areas	*4.0*	81		
RE	Acceptable number of guides on the river	*3.3*	91		
RE	Allow people to keep fish if sustainability of the fishery will not be impacted	*3.1*	88	*2.7*	105
RE	Catch and release only/Catch and release in all flowing east slope waters/No harvest, Calgary - Carseland/Catch & release,, single hook fishery/No fish taken from river.			*5.0*	7

Theme	Desired Result	Workshops Mean	Workshops N	Survey Mean	Survey N
RE	A ban on entire Bow River on power boats, outboard motors, jet skis, except for Law Enforcement, Fire Department, etc. who should be instructed to slow down when approaching law abiding fisherman to avoid causing big waves/Peace, Respect with elimination of gas motors/Prohibit motors, Calgary - Carseland/ Safety for animals with eliminations of gas motors/no motors.			*5.0*	5
RE	Barbless hooks/Incorporate barbless hooks only.			*5.0*	2
RE	Incorporate reporting of fish caught.			*5.0*	1
RE	Clear "send-a-message" regulatory enforcement.			*5.0*	1
RE	Angling regulations that lean heavily toward fish preservation.			*5.0*	1
RE	Increase penalties for poaching.			*5.0*	1
RE	Prohibit keeping of trout larger than 40 cm (16 inches) in all parts of the Bow River, not just between 22x Highway and Carseland.			*5.0*	1
RE	No wading.			*5.0*	1
RE	Lower Bow River (fly fishing only) and you have no problems.			*5.0*	1
RE	Restrict harvest to support catch and release.			*2.0*	1

Potential Management Actions to Consider

Workshop participants reviewed and added to a list of potential management actions (original list items are shaded). As additional potential actions were identified at each workshop they were carried forward to the remaining workshops. Using the OptionFinder® keypad, participants indicated their level of agreement with the identified potential actions.

Survey respondents reviewed a the same list of potential management actions (original list items are shaded). They rated their level of agreement with these potential actions. Survey respondents also had the opportunity to add additional potential management actions (listed after the table of results below).

The frequency of response is reported below (percentages are rounded and may not equal 100%). Unless otherwise indicated, results are from workshop participants N=number of respondents.

Theme	Action	Disagree	Agree, with Conditions	Agree	No Opinion	N
AC	Promote harvest of underutilized species (e.g., whitefish, pike, burbot)	37%	35%	15%	14%	81

Theme	Action		Disagree	Agree, with Conditions	Agree	No Opinion	N
AF	Assess instream flow needs in tributaries (i.e., Fish Creek)		4%	14%	61%	21%	28
AF	Flow study below Carseland Weir for habitat protection requirements		8%	21%	51%	21%	73
BF	Use zero limit: no bait as a management tool instead of widespread total closures (for non-high density spawning areas)		19%	20%	59%	1%	79
BF	Bait ban along with catch and release regulations on entire Bow River, including the lower Bow River		31%	10%	57%	1%	68
BF	Allow bait fishing by children under 16 on entire river		93%	4%	4%	-	28
FM	Restrict further development of obstructions to fish movement		1%	30%	64%	4%	90
FN	Mechanism to inform and support compliance of anglers regarding access requirements on Siksika First Nation lands (e.g., note in Alberta Fishing Guide)		16%	26%	42%	17%	89
FN	Studies that compare the Siksika First Nation portion of the Lower Bow fish populations with the rest of the river		21%	29%	28%	22%	90
HP	Restrict outside impacts (i.e., construction) to those times when they will have minimal impacts on spawning fish.		-	12%	85%	2%	81
HP	Power boat ban from 2 Km upstream of Carseland Weir to City of Calgary boundary		4%	11%	82%	4%	28
HP	Where fisheries data is not available, ensure the management plan conserves fish stocks	**Workshops**	3%	18%	75%	3%	87
		Survey	1%	10%	87%	2%	106
HP	Educational signs along pathways in the city of Calgary explaining fish species, need for habitat protection within the City		15%	12%	65%	8%	26
HP	Regional biologist should have discretion to close "staging" areas if low water of conditions warrant intervention (i.e., mouth of Highwood River)		4%	33%	59%	4%	27
HP	Ban motors on river from Bearspaw to Bassano		32%	11%	54%	4%	28

Theme	Action		Disagree	Agree, with Conditions	Agree	No Opinion	N
HP	No motor operated boats on the Bow River - Bearspaw to Bassano Dam		29%	25%	40%	6%	72
HP	Monitor erosion related to increased use of jet boats		33%	21%	38%	8%	72
HP	Manage for pike in the lower portion of the Bow River (e.g., downstream of Crowfoot Crossing)		16%	24%	27%	33%	79
HP	Eliminate flushing of fish holding structure (i.e., impact on riparian areas) and spawning areas		32%	14%	23%	31%	71
HP	Limit of 5 hp motors from Carseland Weir 2 km upstream		43%	7%	21%	29%	28
HR	More involvement, participation and coordination with regional municipalities who have jurisdiction over tributaries to the Bow River (i.e., crucial spawning habitats)		15%	22%	59%	4%	27
HR	Implementation of whirling disease control measures (i.e., boat washing stations at know drop in points)		19%	23%	42%	15%	26
MD	Establish a whirling disease monitoring program		-	7%	93%	-	28
MD	Ensure sufficient biological fisheries information is available for valid decision making	**Workshops**	1%	17%	79%	2%	87
		Survey	1%	9%	90%	-	108
MD	Hold regular scientific reviews of the management plan to ensure it supports the principles and expectations for the fishery	**Workshops**	-	26%	66%	8%	89
		Survey	-	14%	84%	2%	108
MD	Study of fish carrying capacity for Bow River		8%	18%	62%	12%	73
MD	Funding support for increased studies		6%	34%	61%	-	89
MD	Conduct economic surveys related to the value of the fishery on the Lower Bow		18%	14%	61%	7%	28
MD	Encourage public participation in management plan reviews through a range of communication and awareness methods		6%	32%	57%	5%	81
MD	Bring back spring spawning redd counts on Highwood/Sheep systems		4%	22%	57%	18%	74

Theme	Action	Disagree	Agree, with Conditions	Agree	No Opinion	N
MD	Hold regular public reviews on the management plan to ensure it supports the principles and expectations for the fishery	6%	38%	55%	2%	88
MD	Keep the river open to angling if there is no scientific reason to close it	11%	32%	54%	2%	90
MD	Document critical fisheries habitat use within the City of Calgary	7%	32%	46%	14%	28
MD	Entomology studies	23%	27%	37%	12%	73
MD	Study fish populations in bait ban areas and compare against bait allowed areas (i.e., investigate the success of bait bans)	44%	18%	28%	10%	72
MD	Fish numbers versus size study	23%	32%	23%	22%	73
MD	Study the effect of hooking mortality specifically for catch and release	36%	32%	21%	11%	72
MD	Determine if the length frequency distribution of trout downstream of the Bearspaw Reservoir to the WID Weir is significantly different from WID Weir to Bassano	30%	26%	15%	30%	27
PS	Change the entire river to catch and release - no bait and have closures at all relevant points during prime spawning times	35%	15%	50%	-	26
PS	No bait or spin fishing in the city stretches of the Lower Bow during the fall when brown trout run up to spawn	26%	21%	49%	4%	72
PS	Close the mouth of the Highwood River for 1 km up and down on the Lower Bow River from March 1 to May 1	10%	36%	38%	16%	69
PS	Close river to fishing Oct 1 to Dec 31 and April 1 to June 15	96%	4%	-	-	28
RE	Support for enforcement with angler involvement (e.g., Report a Poacher Program approach)	1%	18%	80%	1%	88
RE	Public education that leads to compliance with regulations and use.	2%	19%	76%	3%	90
RE	Restrictions on gear with regard to catch and release to reduce injury/death	7%	20%	73%	-	90

Theme	Action	Disagree	Agree, with Conditions	Agree	No Opinion	N
RE	Ensure catch and release of all spawning brown trout over 40cm during fall spawning months	3%	20%	73%	4%	71
RE	Signs at the points on the river where regulations change (help anglers understand what regulations are where they are angling)	8%	21%	67%	4%	73
RE	Designation of the Bow River from 22X to Carseland as a "trophy"/"Blue Ribbon" River to recognize and maintain the unique fishery	24%	17%	54%	6%	72
RE	Keep the river open to angling where there is little evidence to show that angling has an impact	16%	42%	45%	3%	89
RE	Use education as a tool rather than regulations (e.g., identifying redds, staying off redds, not angling to spawning fish)	27%	35%	37%	1%	89
RE	Investigate the feasibility of reducing the number of areas of change in the City of Calgary	21%	31%	37%	11%	71
RE	Fly fishing only - Bearspaw to Bassano; catch and release, no bait	60%	6%	34%	-	70
RE	Barbless, single hook, no trebles	37%	26%	33%	4%	27
RE	Additional license fee required for Lower Bow with proceeds to conservation/enforcement	45%	23%	32%	0%	73
RE	Enhance regulations to prohibit the use of lead on the river (i.e., weights, heads, etc.)	34%	27%	27%	12%	82
RE	Charge more for a license to keep fish, less for catch and release	56%	13%	25%	6%	71
RE	Determine the feasibility of issuing tags similar to hunting, for anglers	59%	19%	14%	8%	73
RE	Require a special license to fish the Bow River	44%	44%	11%	-	27
RE	Eliminate all net use	86%	4%	4%	5%	73
RE	Ban wading in the river	93%	4%	3%	-	72

Additional Potential Management Actions

Survey respondents had the opportunity to identify additional potential management actions. N=number of respondents.

Theme	Additional Item	N
AC	Limit number of "for profit" boating/fishing tours on the river.	1
AC	River access and locations.	1
AC	Fishing guide license limited.	1
AF	Impact of irrigation demands placed on flows.	1
AF	All withdrawals dependent on maintaining instream flow needs.	1
AF	Monitor and enforce sustainable storm discharge into Bow from new developments.	1
BF	Total bait bans.	1
FM	Action plan to prevent fish in irrigation canals/Continue to press for fish exclusion devices at canals/Cure the Irrigation Intake problem/Fish barriers on irrigation canals/Prevent sport fishing losses into irrigation canals.	5
FM	Ensure management plan results in fish populations (numbers and size distribution) not significantly different from what would be obtained under a non-angling regime.	1
HP	Ensure stretches of river are set aside as fish sanctuaries to act as biological benchmarks.	1
HP	A protected corridor of perhaps 200-300 feet on both sides of the Bow River should be established, with no development, or clearing of vegetation or trees allowed within this corridor, no livestock grazing (except for approved bridges, parks, access sites, etc.).	1
MD	Advertize for public aid to achieve goals/Education of the public about virtues of the resource in their backyard/Let the public know the economic plus of the Bow River.	3
MD	Have survey cards for fly fishers/Have anglers interviewed over the summer for data.	2
MD	Education to dispel myth that fisherman deplete stock-experiences of other fisheries.	1
MD	Cooperate with organizations like Trout Unlimited for team work.	1
RE	Enforce fishing regulations/Enforcement is crucial to the success of any changes to fisheries regulations/Enforcement of regulations and increase fines for violation/High fines for those caught flagrantly breaking the regs/More enforcement of illegal fishers and poachers.	5
RE	Catch and release only/Catch and release should be an integral part of the management plan/Total catch and release from Deerfoot Bridge to Carseland Weir.	3
RE	Protect the flowing waters and aggressively stock lakes and reservoirs for people who want to take fish (keep everyone happy)/Stock ponds for people who like to take a few fish out to eat.	2
RE	Increase resident/non-resident license fees to ensure continued well managed fishery.	1
RE	No kill over 40 cm (16") (numbers and size are inversely proportionate.	1

Theme	Additional Item	N
RE	Better law enforcement F & W.	1
RE	Sell irrigators a license to kill fish by the thousands.	1
RE	Disallow all motorboats from 22x to Carseland.	1

Workshop Evaluation

Participants rated their level of agreement with each of the following evaluation statements, using a scale from 1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree. Mean results are reported below. N=number of respondents.

Evaluation	Mean	N
I had an adequate opportunity to participate in recommending principles and solutions	4.2	88
I would recommend meeting like this to others	4.1	88
The meeting leaders provided clear information	4.1	87
I had an opportunity to learn about the current fisheries situation on the lower Bow River	4	86

Workshop Participant Comments

Comments received from participants during three of the workshops are transcribed below. Due to the number of statements generated over the course of the meetings and the time required to evaluate them, the fourth workshop, held in Calgary, participants were unable to comment.

WORKSHOP AT SIKSIKA, ALBERTA — FEBRUARY 15, 2000

Comments and Conditions on Actions

- Ensure sufficient biological fisheries information is available for valid decision making

  Conditional agreement: Some decisions may have to be made using assumptions and professional judgement.

- Hold regular scientific reviews of the management plan to ensure it supports the principles and expectations for the fishery

  Conditional agreement: There may be a requirement for professional judgement and use of traditional knowledge.

- Where fisheries data are not available, ensure the management plan conserves fish stocks.

  Conditional agreement: Weigh how different species interact – use of underutilized species and consider ecological factors.

- Hold regular public reviews on the management plan to ensure it supports the principles and expectations for the fishery

  Conditional agreement: Public review should include a mechanism for amendment of regulations. The public review process should describe how public comments will be used in decision making.

- Keep the river open to angling if there is no scientific reason to close it.

  Conditional agreement: Consider traditional knowledge and use.

WORKSHOP AT STRATHMORE, ALBERTA — FEBRUARY 16, 2000

Comments and Conditions on Actions

- Ensure sufficient biological fisheries information is available for valid decision making

  Conditional Comment: Don't spend too much money on biological studies to the detriment of enforcement.

- Where fisheries data are not available, ensure the management plan conserves fish stocks.

  Conditional comment: "Management Plan" shouldn't mean closure of areas to fishing. There is a perception that "management plan" means less opportunity; a management plan is perceived as overly restrictive.

- Public education that leads to compliance with regulations and use.

  Conditional Comment: Public education should be targetted to anglers and other people who use the waterway rather than the broader, less specific "public".

- Support for enforcement with angler involvement (e.g. Report a Poacher Program approach)

  Conditional Comment: Make it easy for anglers to participate in any enforcement programs that are developed. (e.g. phones to contact emergency numbers at access points).

- Funding support for increased studies

  Conditional Comment: Not to the detriment of enforcement programs.

- Studies that compare the Siksika First Nation portion of the Lower Bow fish populations with the rest of the river

  Conditional comment: a) Why isolate one area; consider the whole area as one system / population. b) Angling regulations and sampling methods during research should be consistent in all locations.

- Restrictions on gear with regard to catch and release to reduce injury / death

  Conditional Comment: Restrictions on gear should be based on scientific / research evidence.

- Use education as a tool rather than regulations (e.g. identifying redds, staying off redds, not angling to spawning fish)

  Conditional Comment: Has to be a way to ensure compliance for those who don't do it voluntarily.

- Encourage public participation in management plan reviews through a range of communication and awareness methods

  Conditional Comment: Ensure that money is spent to get the best response; target message to river users.

Other Comments

- Consider escalating consequences for repeatedly breaking the law / repeat offenders.
- There is a need to discuss specific regulations and what they will be with users (i.e. verification process sounds appropriate).
- There is general increasing use of the Lower Bow for all recreational purposes, as well as angling.

WORKSHOP AT CALGARY, ALBERTA — FEBRUARY 21, 2000

Comments on Responses

- While I identified bait fishing as important to discuss and resolve, I don't support the activity (3 Comments)
- A total bait ban will affect young anglers; they're the future of the angling community.
- The vast majority of questions we were asked to respond to were common sense issues that would elicit an agree or strongly agree response. This was borne out be the overwhelming positive response to most questions. Not much room was left for disagreement to the questions presented to us.
- Unduly complicated. If population year to year is static do nothing; if the population drops take action.
- Add a couple of questions to the creel census: a) Have you been contacted by a Conservation Officer while you were on the river? b) How long do you spend on the river?

Comments on Workshop Process

- Start the meeting on time.
- How were people invited to participate?
- Some interests were overwhelmed at the meeting (i.e. Bait angling interest versus fly angling interest).
- Need for more discussion.
- How about having consistent response for evaluating statements i.e. Important to discuss;

Important to be carried out).

Survey Respondent Comments

Comments received from survey respondents are transcribed below.

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Action: Ensure sufficient biological fisheries information is available for valid decision making

- At what cost? There must be a limit to information gathering.
- I was involved in the first trout unlimited fish rescue on canal just downstream of Carseland Weir. I believe it would be highly beneficial to retain a "test group" of different fish species to analyse the conditions of fish samples rescued and also the impact on the fishery when (or after when) the fish are released back into the river. Is there negative effects i.e., over populating certain areas already inhabited by wild fish species?
- At least I permanent, independent biologist must be allowed to make sound decisions based on the needs of the Bow, irrelevant of directions and biased views of managers and NRS.
- Electro-??? should be done a minimum of every 2 years to ensure proper data (ideally every year) as we'll as other ??????????.
- Scientific path should take president over public pressure to harvest fish, and/over rural development.
- Increase funding for research.
- If budget limitation renders information unavailable, then the precautionary principle must be followed - assume the worst, and regulate accordingly.
- Information to be used as part of a "total biologically sound" management philosophy of the total drainage systems.
- Biological test should be once a year for the next 5 years.
- Need enough trained fisheries staff to make this possible.
- have to have a basic assumption that with the growing population and the popularity of the sport that the rivers can't take pressure of a "take" fishery.
- Make sure there is not a knee jerk reaction by well intended by over zealous groups.
- Basic biology/ecology information is critical.
- Important to have biologists gather data.
- Need to take a more serious look at what the biologists are saying. They should be greatly involved in the decision making.
- Some changes needed are somewhat obvious and should be implemented without waiting for study conclusions (biological).

- Do not use lack of information as justification for not making necessary changes.
- How many fish per 1/4 mile. Average size and if any disease on fish.
- The FMD has been crippled by budget cutbacks so that it is dependent on the ACA for basic biological fisheries information. The ACA should not have to subsidize AENV activities.
- Must be within money reason.
- This is a must.
- Mapping on spawning beds number of reeds size of spawning fish.
- Studies of fish stocks and mortality levels every 2-4 years are very important.
- With public input.
- This information would be difficult to interpret by the average person. Fisheries biologists or other environmental committees might find it useful.

Action: Hold regular scientific reviews of the management plan to ensure it supports the principles and expectations for the fishery.

- Very important as population continues to increase.
- In the past, the management plan appears to have been reactive rather than proactive.
- If the plan is sufficiently conservative (as it should be) then these should not be necessary too frequently. If a plan isn't working it's usually obvious fairly quickly - we don't need an expensive review and data gathering - we just need fisheries managers to be empowered to do what's necessary.
- Keep up to date with all users of the resource and be able to adapt to changes in public usage and public expectation.
- Good to revisit the plan; but it shouldn't take so much time that the biology of the system (isn't monitored) and enforcement of the regs suffer.
- I think this is important to make sure the plan is working and any inconsistencies can be dealt with.
- Only if the agreed to plans require revision or amendment because they prove inadequate.
- Very important to have checks along with review.
- Have a review every 4 months if possible if not every 6 months. Also have survey cards to fill out with length, weight and species of fish.
- What are the principles and expectations? Who are the recipients of benefits? What are the goals.
- Depends on the principles and expectations
- My expectation is that this will be "too little, too late" and that we will be reacting to another crisis in 10 years.

- As long as "regular" means that the fishery is not micro-managed.
- Both public and biological.
- It's been primarily luck that the fishery has done this well. Let's keep it that way through conservation.
- Regular assessment would allow effectiveness of the regulations on fish management.

Action: Where fisheries data is not available, ensure the management plan conserves fish stocks.

- Studies in these areas should be made a priority to ensure the management plan is correct for the area.
- Put the fish first.
- Again, this appears to have been handled reactively, after the damage has been done.
- Where fisheries data is not available, ensure the management plan preserves fish stocks. Conservation can mean anything you want it to.
- This statement is a "cop out" - fisheries data should always be available.
- Should be a part of the management process already.
- Absolutely important the East Coast cod and lobster fisheries are terrifically bad examples of mismanagement of stocks.
- I think regardless of data available the conservation of the fish resource has to be bottom line.
- We need fisheries data otherwise it may only be a best-guess game.
- Try to get some data every 5 years or so.
- If you don't have information you are better to error on the conservative side. Look what has happened to other fisheries or species when we have not done this.
- Make plan to attain fisheries data in those locations (we are only talking about the Bow?)
- What would the numbers have to be, to be considered conserving fish stocks (have many fish/km).
- Based on what precautions? Is any data available that is currently applicable?
- This is emergency action...then get the biological data necessary.
- Why destroy a fishery in months that took years in the making?
- No fish taken from river (trout).
- Assessment via those who use the waterway regularly. Enlisted volunteers.
- Though how you can ensure conservation of stocks without "fisheries data" being available, is not clear to me.

OVERALL COMMENTS

- 1. Landowners and others, including governmental agencies, should be prohibited from cutting down trees or vegetation within 200 feet (or more) of the Bow River - except for approved uses such as bridges, public access site creation, etc. 2. Cattle and other livestock should be kept away from the river and riverbanks. 3. Large organizations such as canoe clubs, etc. should be limited to sending only a modest number of boats down the river der day (e.g., perhaps a limit of 2 canoes or boats per hour or 10 per day). I have seen fishing quality and natural beauty and aesthetic appeal of many areas of the river ruined over the last 11 years because of the factors listed above in 1 and 2, and sometimes compromised by number 3. Also, radios, TVS, tape players etc. should be banned from the river (and cell phones except for emergency use). Stiff fines should be imposed for drunkenness unruly behaviour, and reckless boating habits.
- A "no harvest, no bait" regulation downstream from the Bearspaw Dam is needed to sustain the fishery. This would simplify regulations and enforcement immensely. The bait and harvest fisherman have to realize this isn't 1970 and the fishery can't sustain this kind of pressure. If they want to use bait and harvest fish there are many "Put & Take" (stocked) fisheries available to them.
- A solution must be sought to alleviate the damages caused by the drainage of irrigation canals (i.e., fish gates). Bring a halt to the city's granting of permits for the building of ridiculous eyesores as the golf course adjacent to Grave's Landing.
- Add "fly fishing only" sections to the river. Add "catch and release" sections to the river.
- Also a spin fisher (when kids are with me). Have boating interest on Bow. Have camping interest on Bow.
- Am co-owner of high Country Outdoor Adventures Ltd. The Bow River is extremely important to the city of Calgary and its inhabitants.
- As has been stated many times by prior generations, "keep the fish for the next generation." Hopefully, human greed will not decimate a beautiful river and an exceptional fishery. I believe the Bow should be a "catch and release" fishery however, I openly admit that I do not have "fisheries data" to support my belief of catch and release. If funds are necessary then I would gladly help with fund raising if the government coffers are bare.
- As I also guide on Lower Bow River as well as on other streams in Southern Alberta.
- Change of regulations around the mouth of the Highwood River during the spawn is positive. Being proactive regarding plans to deal with whirling disease if it occurs in the Bow River and it's tributaries.
- Bait fishing should be banned and motors on boats should be prohibited.
- Concerns of users of the River (i.e., golf courses, land developers, cattle owners) are not participating in this process! "Only fishermen."
- Enforce on-leash by-law on both sides of Bow at Highway 22x bridge. It is not a pleasure anymore to enter the river at these sites.
- Enough fisheries staff to enforce regs & monitor the resource.

- Especially concerned about the action needed to be taken on the development of fish screens or other devices needed for Irrigation Canals off of the Bow River. A lot of commitment to the rescues of fish each year, jut not a lot of feedback or action. Biggest thing is if regulations need to be made, will they be enforced, more officers needed to do this, and it's not just the Bow. There should not be the need to exempt Spin Fishers or Bait fishers as long as they follow the regulations. More detail in the regulations i.e., fly only or fly and spin only.
- Great endeavour. Agree strongly with need for comprehensive data and public educational aspects.
- Higher and stronger fines and penalties for anyone breaking regulations. What I find most disturbing is, I have yet to see one Wildlife Officer anywhere along the Bow. Ethnic groups who break almost every regulation and one who takes 20+ fish a day out of the Bow. Who do we contact about this.
- I find it somewhat ironic (though likely necessary) that the lower Carseland Weir to McKinnon Flats is so highly restricted to the sport fisherman however more fish are lost due to the insufficiencies of the canal divers on device located at Carseland Weir. P.S. I do not have any problems with tightly regulated sport fishing in general. I feel it is vitally important that ?????? or the Bow River do not step on fishing regulations alone. It is the "big picture" effects that will allow one fishery to be a healthy one. Downstream effects on lower systems, potential railway spills, chemical spills etc. and our immediate ability to be asked to contain these issues with due diligence is as important and well worth (in my opinion) for our government to spend money on having specific individuals or groups to be working on emergency response plans on an ongoing basis.
- I support a long-term quality fishery. I support catch and release.
- I have observed anglers using bait in non-bait areas. I have seen anglers with oversized fish and too many fish all on the lower Bow and I believe its because the regulations are too hard to interpret. Hope we can get it straightened out for the sake of the fishery.
- I found this questionnaire to be indicative of Advocacy Research. You have a hypothesis in mind that proves a set opinion, not based on scientific balance. This was extremely evident in the nature of the questions. I believe you already have a goal in mind and a planned direction for achieving it. This questionnaire has been designed to support your hypothesis not gain public opinion. Shame on you!
- I believe the questions here can all be interpreted either way. They are almost all ambiguous enabling those who desire to come up with whatever decision that has already been made. A bunch of motherhood and apple pie subjects.
- I think people who know how to release fish caught with bait should be allowed to use it. I am an avid fisherman and 90% of the time would use bait if allowed. If people could understand the regulations better, less people would break the rules thus maybe saving more fish. If you want to restore the fish population in the Lower Bow River, that's fine. But as a bait fisherman, you shouldn't be able to bait ban all flowing water in Alberta. This sheet is on the Lower Bow River. My complaint is with all the other bait ban's in effect in our province. The rules today are made for fly fisherman no the 50% of the recreational and family man trips.

- I agree with catch and release as a management tool not an article of faith. Down the road we may want to harvest trout to maintain a quality fishery. I don't think we want to see a situation where trout numbers increase to the point where sizes start decreasing. A case in point is the Bighorn River in Montana where all areas and guides are complaining about the decrease in trout size and don't want to harvest trout as recommended by Montana State Fisheries Management people. Thus perpetuating the problem.
- I'd like to see a similar survey addressing the fishing areas on the Eastern Slopes not just the Lower Bow River.
- It would appear that only the common angler contributes financially through licence fees towards the preservation and management of the Lower Bow River. It is about time for other users of this river to contribute also. Recreational boaters, commercial guides and particularly the First Nations should be seen to "care" about this unique jewel, by making some financial contributions also. I know many anglers perceive the current system as "a rule for one and not others." This is quite unfair and would appear undemocratic in Canadian Constitution.
- Let me begin by saying thanks for the review. While it is certainly overdue, I'm pleased that it is happening and I'm hopeful that this will become a regular event. There seems to be concern that the regulations need to be simplified in terms of having the same regulations for the whole river or at least the stretch under review. I believe this is unwise given ways and the fish use the river at different times of the year. Spawning area closures to protect the spawning browns in the City of Calgary seem warranted. Although we do not seem to have the needed scientific information to back this up, closure of the river in the area of the Highwood in spring to protect staging rainbows also seems important. My contention is that until we have sound scientific information to guide such decisions, we should be taking a conservative approach to regulations, including specific area and time regulations. Fishing is a "blood sport." Even those who carefully practice catch and release are killing some fish. My understanding is that the most optimistic mortality rate in catch and release trout fishing is 3%. For good fisherman, and there are many on the Bow, this certainly adds up over a season. What I'm suggesting is that I don't believe that with ever growing numbers of anglers, there is any place for a harvest fishery on the Bow. I believe that Albertans have a very special treasure in the Bow River fishery. It is time we invested in knowing this fishery, its potential and needs. I believe we do not know the true potential or fish carrying capacity of this river. It seems that we have far to little data to make important decisions. Government, as well as the public, such as Trout Unlimited Canada, need to be committing to better caring for what has been shown to be a multi-million dollar resource. One important part of this commitment is to adequately enforcing whatever regulations are established. I fish over 50 days each year and haven't had my license checked nor seen anyone else checked in over five years. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Bow River regulations and management.
- Maintain catch and release regulations at all times. Confiscate equipment and big fines for offenders/polluters. Ban bait fishing. Ensure enforcement, especially near Calgary. In 20 years of fishing the Bow, I have never had my license checked.
- Maintaining this great public fishery is important, even if further restrictions are required. Where fisheries are allowed to deteriorate, the only remaining fisheries are private waters. Fishing for recreation should not become a sport accessible only to those who can afford to pay private fees.

- Modify Carseland and little Bow diversions to limit fish kill. Angling pressure is only one component to fish loss. Reduce number of guide boats on the river. Leave mouth of High Wood spring fishing alone - impact low on fish.
- My wife and I are new to fly fishing and enjoy it very much. We use barbless hooks and practice catch and release at all times. We'd like to see this practised by all using the Bow River. We live in the Deer Run Area of Calgary, I just retired and we enjoy strolling down the Bow and watch kids and fisherman do their thing. Lets keep the Bow fish population up for all to enjoy for years to come.
- Need to trust the opinions of the biologist. They should have the best outlook to what is happening with a fishery. We need to protect these fisheries more so they can be sustained for a long period of time. This may mean we will not be able to go fishing whenever we want to, but it will be the best for the fishery in the long run. We may have become a bit spoiled. We can no longer just blame someone else for everything, we all need to do our part to maintain fisheries.
- Non-Alberta resident license fee's should be increased.
- One measure which I believe would protect the fish population is the construction of devices to prevent fish from entering irrigation canals. A diversified program which includes education, policies, research, communication, regulations and progressive planning.
- Public access to the river is very limited. Why not have a special, readable, map of the Bow River showing access locations included with fishing regulations. Overall, maps are too small in the regulations. Be able to keep 2 per day - 8 per season consistent with proper size limitations - 8 tags with purchase of license. Perhaps even a special Bow River license.
- Save the fishery, even if it means "no fishing" for a period of time. Beware of whirling disease possibility. There may be more fish lost in irrigation ditches than "catch and kill" angling.
- Should fly fisherman have the only right to fish the Bow? NO. Barbless hooks. Restrictions on small white fish taken. You can't tell 1/3 fisherman that you can't fish. I say barbless hooks, no fish limit on trout. The only thing you will achieve on these bait ban rules are less fishing licenses, and more poaching. Are you willing to spend more money on enforcement with less license money coming in, I don't think so.
- Thank you for the quick response to my e-mail request!
- Thank you for doing this review! If I may become a part in this survey being completed let me know. The Bow River is a wonderful God given gift that can best be appreciated when on or beside it. What a calm, peaceful world filled with natural wildlife...and never dull for we are among that which we did not create.
- The lower Bow can continue to be a world class fly fishing fishery if proper steps are taken to ensure its sustain ability. I am a catch and release fisherman but I don't think the lower Bow need to be C & R only though at certain times of the year this would be appropriate. Crowsnest regulations seem to work.
- The Lower Bow is an important recreational river for both anglers and other users (as well as providing a source of tourist and other reviews to our community). The maintenance of the Bow River as a world class fishery must be maintained and should be enhanced.

- T spawning trout should be protected during the spawn and at staging areas downstream of sp wning areas (Highwood). Have higher fines and penalties for poachers.
- The Bow is a great river. Not only to be used by the top money people, e.g., Float and Fly. Let the young people (kids) catch some also. Use the outdoor clubs (Trout Unlimited, Fish & Game) to help where we can. I do not like the attitude of the Fish & Game people, when they find someone else fishing there, honey run.
- The need to restrict power boat usage downstream of Calgary to Carseland. Other than emergency needs, there should not be powered boats through the City of Calgary and all the way downstream to the Carseland Weir. Thank you for including me in the survey.
- The noise and disturbance caused by jet boats and other motorized watercrafts is becoming a huge concern. The noise pollution detracts from the enjoyment of fishing/relaxing by the river, probably affects spawning areas. Disrespectful, boat drivers wreck the experience for many. Some erosion may also occur from waves caused.
- The lower Bow is a fly fishing resource of internation importance and stature. Recognize and manage it as such! It's a huge blessing.
- There is no reason that the Bow cannot continue to be a world class fishery with proper stewardship. The things I feel strongest about are bait fishing from 22x to Bearspaw - this seems so contrary to proper management. Keep it simple, "catch and release only", flys or single hook lures. Has any consideration been given to limiting the number of guide licenses on the Lower Bow? Good policy for all flowing water from eastern slopes. Fishing is a "privilege not a right."
- These issues are very important in that angler access to spawning and staging trout should be restricted. I would like to see total catch and release from Deerfoot Bridge to Carseland Weir to provide baseline population data to see the numbers of trout the river can really produce given the chance.
- Time & Tide & Saltwater. Atlantic & Pacific. Now the Bow River. Can we learn?
- To say that fisheries management in Alberta has been a disaster over the last 20 years would be an understatement. Unfortunately, it seems not much has been learned. Alberta Environment must be proactive, use conservative professional judgement where hard data is not available, and stop running around asking the public what they should do - as I see it, it's their job to ensure healthy viable fish populations and to manage appropriately. Speed is of the essence when a situation becomes critical and you don't usually need a study to prove such a situation. Everybody's usually well aware. It took 20 years to act on the bull trout - why?
- What are the plans to address access issue east of Carseland Weir - First Nations issues?
- With the increase in fishing pressure over the last few years it would be nice to see the regulations evolve at the same pace. The concept of catching fish to eat is an old one, as there are many stocked ponds around for that, it would be special to keep the Bow a wild fishery. Also over the last five years I have not been asked to show my license once?? Where is the enforcement? As well a better monitoring of Industry around the Bow and water quality.

- As an avid fly fisherman, I spend a lot of time on the Lower Bow. I am very conservation minded always releasing the fish I catch, especially trout. On one occasion I brought a small Rocky Mountain Whitefish home for a friend (I felt guilty killing that fish). I find it very alarming that the fish within the city don't have the same protection as the fish below 22x. I have on a couple of occasions seen very large brown trout on stingers caught by bait/spin fisherman in the city, below the city these fish would have been protected, very sad to say the least. These fish must be protected especially during spawning season. I know the Bow can sustain some harvest and obviously does but I think it is imperative that the big fish are protected regardless of their position in the river (above or below 22x). I find it disturbing that I have to pack a cell phone in my vest with the poaching hotline telephone number taped to the back. I do this because on numerous occasions I have had to trek back to my vehicle to report illegal incidents on the river. I just keep it in the back of my vest as I'm sure I will have to use it again some day to report illegal activity on the river. Having said this, I think the penalty for poachers abusing the fishery should be much stiffer, they are much to soft now, hardly discouraging poachers.

- Would like to see regulations not changed so much as enforced. Would like to see more enforcement personnel patrolling the shore. Would like fines increased for bait-fishing where prohibited and for fishing off-limits areas out of season. This would go far toward educating the public what the regulations are. There could also be more signs posted specifying regulations for those parts of the river-most poachers know the rules but proclaim ignorance when caught. I'd like to give them fewer excuses. Current creel limits are acceptable. I wouldn't mind a C & R fishery, but a small harvest is currently sustainable. The Bow can even sustain a bait fishery, but I still support the bait ban because it improves the quality of the fishery by allowing more fish to survive being caught. I do much of my fishing in spring and late fall and do not support seasonal closures on the Bow River proper. I do however, support seasonal closures on spawning tributaries like the Elbow River and the Highwood River. There should be a closure in spring on the portion of the Bow adjacent to the Highwood junction to protect Rainbow Trout. This is just like the current fall closure on the portion of the Bow adjacent to its confluence with the Elbow to protect spawning Browns. Although Brown Trout and Mountain Whitefish spawn in other parts of the Bow River proper, their populations seem to be holding steady (and are perhaps growing) despite some angling pressure. I support updating information regarding fish populations in the Bow. I think these efforts should be continuous so we have up to date data on which to make decisions about the fishery. The Bow should not be considered in isolation since it is impacted environmentally by goings on in the tributary streams. There should be more enforcement of fishing regulations on these streams particularly in spring and fall when fish are spawning. Alberta's mountain streams in general are more sensitive to fishing pressure them the Bow, and I'd hate to see them neglected for the sake of the Bow River. Also protected the Bow River from the environmental impacts of human development means doing the same in the Bow's upper tributaries.

- No wading. No boats with motors. No party boats. No bait. No more than 12 guide boats. No spinning. No development (i.e., golf courses) No outside water usage. No in-flow of toxic chemicals (i.e., pesticides).

- I would like to see Fish and Wildlife officers enforcing regulations. Too many people fish without a license and/or fish illegally.

As at March 13, 2000

Alberta
ENVIRONMENT

Fisheries Management and Regulatory Requirements for Angling on the Lower Bow River

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

FINAL REPORT

APPENDIX 5

Recommendations Update, Response Form and Results

Lower Bow River Advisory Committee Makes Recommendations for Angling Regulations

The Bow River is well known as an international "blue ribbon" trout fishery. To maintain the long-term integrity of the fishery, Alberta Environment initiated a public consultation process to review angling regulations on the lower Bow River. The portion of the lower Bow River being considered extends about 240 kilometres downstream of the Bearspaw Dam in Calgary to the Bassano Dam (see the map on page 8).

In February 2000, a newsletter announcing the review was sent to a list of approximately 1,900 people who might have an interest in this review (see previous bulletin "Alberta Environment is conducting a review of fisheries management on the lower Bow River," February 2000).

Status of the Fishery in the lower Bow River

Recent and historical fish population counts and interviews with anglers along portions of the lower Bow River indicate that there have been no drastic changes in trout populations. The populations are still relatively good. During the public consultation and fisheries regulation review, public participants agreed that steps to maintain or increase the quality of the fishery on the lower Bow River should be taken now, given the increasing recreational and angling use of the river.

This newsletter outlines proposed changes recommended by the Lower Bow River Advisory Committee (Committee) after considering all public input to date and available biological information. Public comments on the proposed angling regulation recommendations will provide further direction for the Committee and constitute the next step in the public consultation process.

Public Involvement and Advice

The Committee was formed to represent a range of interests of people familiar with fisheries, environmental management and angling on the lower Bow River. The mandate of the Committee is to provide advice and recommendations for angling regulations to Alberta Environment. The Committee provided a "third party" review of the scientific and fish harvest information that, along with the public involvement program results, led to the preparation of draft regulations recommendations.

The Committee assisted with the design of the public consultation process that was initiated in February 2000. Committee members attended and listened to participants at four workshops (Strathmore, Siksika and two in Calgary) and reviewed the results of the workshops as well as a mail-in survey. The combination of workshops and the survey resulted in participation and responses from over 200 people.

The following interests were represented on the Committee:

Alberta Environment - Fisheries Management	Alberta Environment - Enforcement
Environmental and Conservation	University Academic (Fisheries)
First Nation	Alberta Fish and Game Association
Trout Unlimited	Fly Angler
Bait Angler	Retailer
Guide and Outfitter	Landowner
Bow River Water Council	City of Calgary, Parks and Recreation

Use of Public Workshop and Survey Results

Combined responses from the workshops and the survey focused on ten theme areas (not in priority order):

Protection of Spawning Areas	Regulations and Enforcement	Bait Fishing
Monitoring and Data Collection	Habitat Protection and Management	First Nations
Adequate Flow	Fish Movement	Access
Health of the River		

A number of issues or themes identified in the public consultation were beyond the specific angling regulations mandate of the Committee. The Committee decided, however, to include these issues in their submission to Alberta Environment but they will not form part of the proposed angling recommendations package.

The Committee focused on three theme areas pertinent to angling regulations in the preparation of their recommendations: 1) protection of spawning areas, 2) regulations and enforcement, and 3) bait fishing. The Committee identified nine criteria that emerged from the public consultation process that guided their preparation and evaluation of fisheries regulation options:

a. The Bow River fishery is unique.

b. There is a need to ensure the quality of the trout fishery.

c. There is a need to manage fish populations while they are still healthy rather than waiting until there is a crisis.

d. Spawning fish and the associated habitat must be protected.

e. Simplify regulations as long as there is no risk to the fishery.

f. Don't implement total closures unless it's necessary.

g. Allow the harvest of fish but not at the expense of sustaining fish populations.

h. There is little support for new angling or guiding fees.

i. Regulations need to be enforceable, based on science and generally acceptable to the angling public.

Fisheries Regulations Recommendations

The proposal from the Committee reduces the number of regulation sections from eight to four and greatly simplifies the angling regulations within each new section. The proposed regulations that follow are faithful to the nine criteria described on Page 2. Public comments on the proposed regulations are critical to the public consultation process and for the Committee to produce the best regulation recommendations possible. A response form is available to provide responses to the following fisheries regulation recommendations for the lower Bow River:

Bearspaw Dam to WID Weir, including the Elbow River (downstream from Glenmore Reservoir)

1. **April 1 to May 31 - CLOSED**

   Reasons:

   a. Provides protection for spring river-spawning rainbow trout.

   b. Protects incubating brown trout eggs from mortality associated with wading impacts when the eggs are most sensitive. This section has a high density of brown trout redds (spawning).

2. **October 1 to November 30 - CLOSED**

   Reasons:

   a. Protects spawning brown trout from harvest when they are concentrated, highly visible and the most vulnerable.

   b. The length of the closure has been extended two weeks longer than previous regulations due to recent surveys that show significant spawning activity continues through to the end of November.

   c. This regulation also provides protection from wading impacts on eggs as anglers are attracted specifically to redd areas due to the high visibility of concentrated large spawning fish.

3. **Maggots are the only bait allowed and only from August 16 to September 30**

   Reasons:

   a. Most bait is not allowed in order to maximize the survival of released fish. A maximum size limit requires the mandatory release of some trout. Mortality for trout caught and released has been shown to be 30- to 50 per cent higher when using bait than without bait.

   b. Allowing maggots only during the fall encourages harvest of mountain whitefish, and has not been demonstrated to significantly increase trout catches or mortality. This section of the lower Bow River has traditionally had the highest amount of angling for mountain whitefish.

4. **Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched[1])**

   Reasons:

   a. A 35 cm maximum size limit (i.e., all trout larger than 35 cm must be released) protects the majority of adult, spawning age rainbow and brown trout and maximizes the numbers of large trout in the population.

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[1] Total length is measured from the tip of the nose or jaw to the tip of the tail fin, with the tail pinched together - Alberta Sport Fishing Regulations

b. A 35 cm maximum size limit still allows some harvest of trout but with the least impact to the population (a large proportion of the small immature fish die naturally anyway each year).

c. Reduction of the daily limit from two trout to one ensures that enough young fish make it to spawning age but still allows anglers to have a meal of trout if desirable.

WID Weir to Carseland Weir

1. No closures to angling

Reasons:

a. Seasonal angling closures were deemed unnecessary in this section. Although brown trout do spawn between the WID Weir and Highway 22X, the Committee felt it was desirable to have some angling opportunity within the city during the fall.

b. There is sufficient protection to sustain brown trout populations provided by the upstream fall closures and the proposed maximum 35 cm size limit, and daily limit of one trout..

c. A spring closure at the mouth of the Highwood River, where rainbow trout are known to congregate (i.e., stage) prior to their spawning migration up the Highwood River, and where they are subjected in some years to concentrated angling pressure, was deemed by the Committee to be unnecessary. Angling pressure at this time of the season and at this location is not believed to pose a risk to the sustainability of the Bow River's rainbow trout population.

- The few studies done on angling impacts to spawning success of trout suggest little or no significant impact.
- High angling pressure does not occur every year (dependent on runoff and water level).
- Immediate catch and release mortality is relatively low at this time of year due to very low water temperatures.
- The Committee felt, however, that mortality caused by catch and release angling and impacts to spawning success should be studied for Bow River rainbow trout at this location specifically. Should biological studies show a significant impact of angling on spawning success, a spring closure at this location would be reconsidered.

2. Bait ban

Reasons:

a. Bait is not allowed in order to maximize the survival of released fish. A maximum size limit requires the mandatory release of some trout. Mortality for trout caught and released has been shown to be 30- to 50 per cent higher when using bait than without bait.

b. The total bait ban previously associated with most of this section has been maintained. The use of bait is not compatible with angling regulations that require the release of some caught fish in order to sustain trout populations because of high post-release mortality.

c. The opportunity to fish for whitefish is provided in the section upstream.

3. **Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)**

Reasons:

a. The proposed one trout under 35 cm regulation provides additional protection to spawning-age trout (see reasons for Bearspaw Dam to WID Weir).

b. The 0 trout limit from April 1 to May 31 that previously existed from Highway 22X to Carseland was removed since the new regulation provides protection of spawning age trout.

Carseland Weir to Highway 24 Bridge

1. **April 1 to May 31 - CLOSED**

Reasons:

a. The spring closure is maintained due to the presence of high-density rainbow trout spawning and brown trout redds in this section.

b. Provides protection for spring river-spawning rainbow trout.

c. Protects incubating brown trout eggs from mortality associated with wading impacts at a time when the eggs are most sensitive. This section has a high density of brown trout redds (spawning).

2. **October 1 to November 30 - CLOSED**

Reasons:

a. A new fall closure is proposed due to the high concentration of brown trout spawning in this section.

b. The length of the closure has been extended two weeks longer than previous regulations due to recent surveys that show significant spawning activity continues through to the end of November.

c. This regulation also provides protection from wading impacts on eggs as anglers are attracted specifically to redd areas due to the high visibility of concentrated large spawning fish.

3. **Bait ban**

Reasons:

a. Bait is not allowed in order to maximize the survival of released fish. A maximum size limit requires the mandatory release of some trout. Mortality for trout caught and released has been shown to be 30- to 50 per cent higher when using bait than without bait.

b. The total bait ban previously associated with most of this section has been maintained. The use of bait is not compatible with angling regulations that require the release of some caught fish in order to sustain trout populations because of high post-release mortality.

c. The opportunity to fish for whitefish is provided in the section upstream.

4. **Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)**

Reasons:

a. A 35 cm maximum size limit (i.e., all trout larger than 35 cm must be released) protects the majority of adult, spawning age rainbow and brown trout and maximizes the numbers of large trout in the population.

b. A 35 cm maximum size limit still allows some harvest of trout but with the least impact to the population (a large proportion of the small immature fish die naturally anyway each year).

c. Reduction of the daily limit from two trout to one ensures that enough young fish make it to spawning age but still allows anglers to have a meal of trout if desirable.

Highway 24 Bridge to Bassano Dam

1. **No closures to angling**

Reasons:

a. Seasonal closures were not required in this section since no high density spawning areas have been identified.

2. **Bait ban**

Reasons:

a. Bait is not allowed in order to maximize the survival of released fish. A maximum size limit requires the mandatory release of some trout. Mortality for trout caught and released has been shown to be 30- to 50 per cent higher when using bait than without bait.

b. The total bait ban previously associated with most of this section has been maintained. The use of bait is not compatible with angling regulations that require the release of some caught fish in order to sustain trout populations because of high post-release mortality.

c. The opportunity to fish for whitefish is provided in the section upstream.

3. **Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)**

Reasons:

a. A 35 cm maximum size limit (i.e., all trout larger than 35 cm must be released) protects the majority of adult, spawning age rainbow and brown trout and maximizes the numbers of large trout in the population.

b. A 35 cm maximum size limit still allows some harvest of trout but with the least impact to the population (a large proportion of the small immature fish die naturally anyway each year).

c. Reduction of the daily limit from two trout to one ensures that enough young fish make it to spawning age but still allows anglers to have a meal of trout if desirable.

d. The previous 0 limit October 1 to May 31 regulation was removed since the new limit will provide the necessary protection to sustain the trout fishery and is consistent with regulations on the upstream sections.

General Recommendations (Bearspaw Dam to Bassano Dam)

1. **Limit of one (1) trout less that 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)**

   Reasons:

   a. This single regulation for the lower Bow River recognizes that this portion of the River consists of contiguous fish populations and should be managed as a continuous piece of water. The simplicity and effectiveness of the regulations are maximized. *Regular population monitoring is essential to ensure sufficient young trout - which are vulnerable to be harvested - survive to spawning age.*

2. **Mountain Whitefish - allow possession of five (5) fish over 30 cm in length**

   Reasons:

   a. No change to the mountain whitefish regulations is proposed because the current regulations provide sufficient protection to ensure the sustainability of the population under current and anticipated angling pressure.

3. **Northern Pike - limit of three (3) with no size limit**

   Reasons:

   a. The size limit on pike has been removed as it was recommended that the lower Bow River would be managed for trout and mountain whitefish consistent with East Slopes angling regulations. Low angling pressure and harvest levels should allow for the sustainability of the river's pike population.

4. **Current provincial regulations should apply for all other sport fish species found in the lower Bow River**

   Reasons:

   a. Other species (e.g., burbot, perch etc.) are incidental in the Bow River and general provincial angling regulations should provide sufficient protection.

What happens next?

Public response to the proposed recommendations will be received, analyzed and presented to the Committee. The regulation recommendations will be reconsidered by the Committee to determine if any additions or amendments are required based on public response.

Once the Committee has reviewed and finalized their angling regulation recommendations, they will be provided to Alberta Environment for consideration and submission to the Minister for final approval.

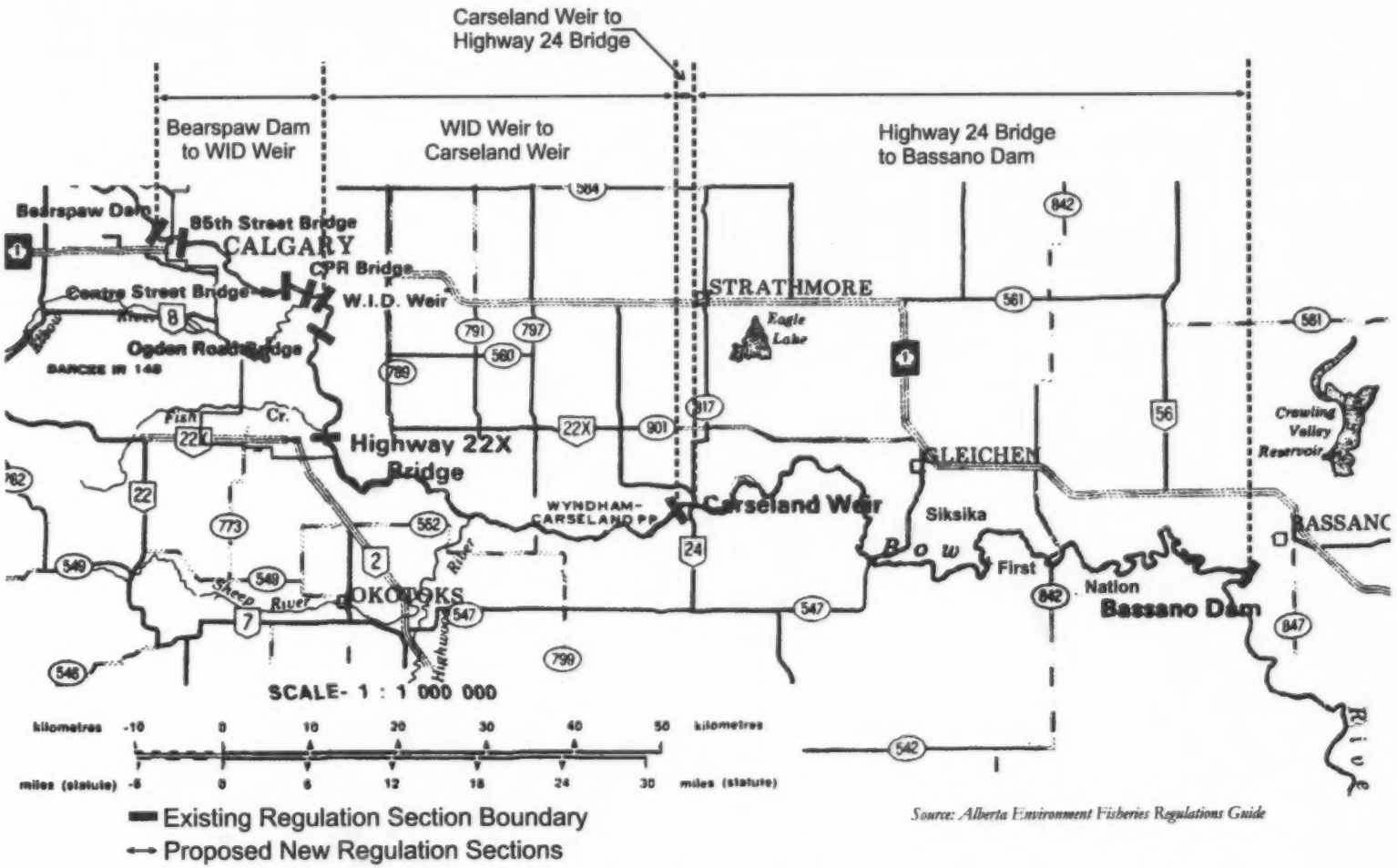
If you have any questions or require further information on the preparation of the recommended regulations, please contact:

Trevor Rhodes, Fisheries Biologist, Bow Region, AENV,
Chair, Lower Bow River Fisheries Committee
at (403) 934-3422 (for toll free dial 310-0000 first)

OR

Equus Consulting Group
(toll free) at 1-800-361-9362

Proposed Sections of the Lower Bow River



Source: Alberta Environment Fisheries Regulations Guide

The Response Form

The lower Bow River Fisheries Advisory Committee has prepared draft fisheries regulation recommendations for the Bow River from Bearspaw Dam in Calgary to the Bassano Dam (see the enclosed map). The Advisory Committee wants to know if you agree with its proposals. Details on each proposed recommendation are included in the bulletin, *Lower Bow River Advisory Committee Makes Recommendations for Angling Regulations* (May 2000).

Please complete this survey by May 31, 2000

Fax* or mail the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to:

*(for purposes of faxing, please remember that this is a two-sided document)

FAX: (780) 423-4745 or toll free 1-888-423-4745

If you have any questions about the survey, contact:

Jim Gendron, Equus Consulting Group - (780) 423-4731 or toll free at 1-800-361-9362

Proposed Recommendations

Bearspaw Dam to WID Weir, including the Elbow River (downstream from Glenmore Reservoir)

1. April 1 to May 31 - CLOSED ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

2. October 1 to November 30 - CLOSED ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

3. Maggots are the only bait allowed and only from August 16 to September 30 ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

4. Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched) ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

Proposed Recommendations (continued)

WID Weir to Carseland Weir

1. No closures to angling ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

2. Bait ban ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

3. Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched) ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

Carseland Weir to Highway 24 Bridge

1. April 1 to May 31 - CLOSED ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

2. October 1 to November 30 - CLOSED ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

3. Bait ban ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

4. Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched) ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

Highway 24 Bridge to Bassano Dam

1. No closures to angling ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

2. Bait ban ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

3. Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched) ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

General (Bearspaw Dam to Bassano Dam)

1. Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched) ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

2. Mountain Whitefish - allow possession of five (5) over 30 cm in length ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

3. Northern Pike - limit of three (3) with no size limit ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

4. Current provincial regulations should apply for all other sport fish species found in the lower Bow River ❍ Agree ❍ Agree, with conditions ❍ Disagree ❍ No opinion

COMMENT/CONDITION:

A Little About Yourself

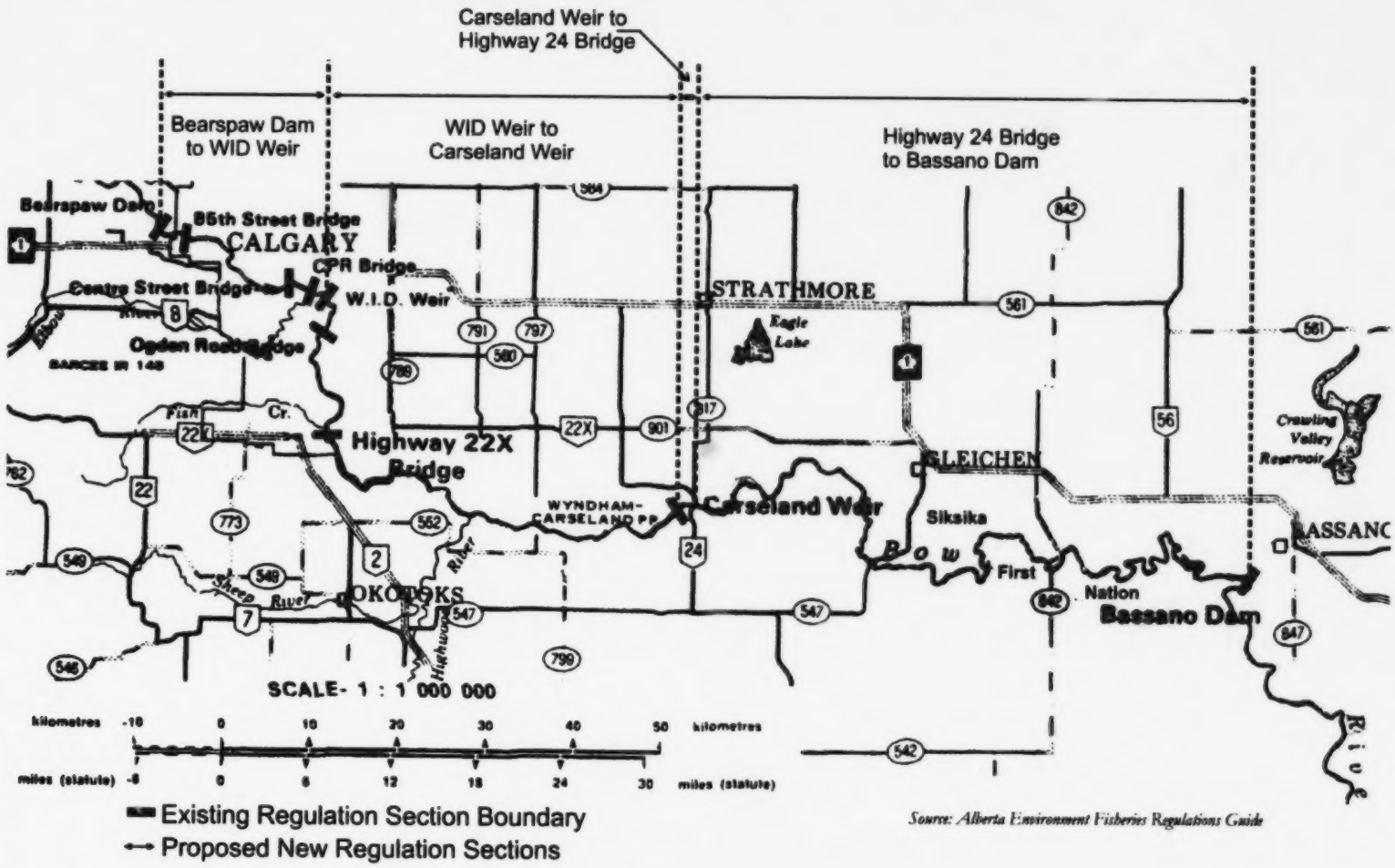
Which of the following BEST describes your interest in the lower Bow River? ***(Check one only)***

- ❍ Fly Fishing
- ❍ Bait Fishing
- ❍ Spin Fishing
- ❍ Environmental/Conservation
- ❍ First Nations
- ❍ Land Owner
- ❍ Land Developer
- ❍ Recreational Boating
- ❍ Other Recreational User
- ❍ Fishing Guide/Fishing Equipment Retailer
- ❍ Other: _____

Additional Comments

May 1, 2000

Proposed Sections of the Lower Bow River



Source: Alberta Environment Fisheries Regulations Guide

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Response Form Results to Proposed Recommendations

The Committee considered the advice provided from the workshops and surveys in the preparation of recommendations. Once their draft recommendations were prepared, an information update along with a response form was prepared. Over 1,200 updates and response forms were distributed as follows:

1. 282 to the contact list developed from people who participated either at a workshop or by completing a survey.
2. 550 to Calgary area retailers and outfitters for distribution to customers.
3. 300 to AENV's Strathmore offices for distribution to cultural organizations.
4. 88 to Committee Members for their information and distribution.

The information update, sent out in May 2000, described the recommendations and reasons for them. The response form allowed people to respond to each recommendation by indicating whether they a) agreed with the recommendation as it stood, b) agreed but had some conditions they felt should be met for the recommendation to be acceptable, or c) disagreed with the recommendation. There were 191 responses received to the recommendations. N=Number of respondents.

Bearspaw Dam to WID Weir, including the Elbow River (downstream from Glenmore Reservoir)

1. **April 1 to May 31 - CLOSED** (N=191)

86.9% AGREE

- No comments were received.

4.2% AGREE, WITH CONDITIONS

- Bearspaw to 85.
- No closure on Elbow.
- Open for Whitefish in Elbow.
- This closure seems to broad: 1) Does spawning occur below the Sholdice Foot bridge? 2) Does Rainbow Trout spawning in the Elbow below Elbow Drive? 3) Below the Calgary Golf and Country Club?

7.9% DISAGREE

- Bearspaw and Glenmore should not be closed.
- Fishing, catch and release only.
- Impose "No" wading.
- Time window is okay, geographic length is too much. Do Brown's spawn in upper section.

1.0% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

2. **October 1 to November 30 - CLOSED** (N=191)

86.9% AGREE

- Recommend closure October 1 to March 31.

5.2% AGREE, WITH CONDITIONS

- Agree with Centre Street to Weir.
- October 15 to December 15 in the existing centre street Bridge to WID and Elbow River.
- Open for Whitefish in Elbow.
- Suggest October 15; gets past Thanksgiving.

6.9% DISAGREE

- Catch and release.
- Fishing, catch and release only.
- Generally unfishable conditions - ice etc.
- Impose "No" wading.

1.0% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

3. **Maggots are the only bait allowed and only from August 16 to September 30** (N=189)

59.8% AGREE

- Consider the use of single hook only.
- Needs to be carefully monitored to determine impact on trout.
- Should be no bait anytime.

9.0% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- As long as this does not become an enforcement problem i.e., what bait are they using?
- Can this be extended?
- No still bait fishing and better enforcement. "Still" means fixed line not flowing. Spin fisherman could still use scent impregnated bait (i.e., Berkly power baits).
- Only if shown that trout are not taken on maggots.
- Only for flowing water (Elbow).
- Only for Mountain Whitefish (not trout).
- Reduce limit.
- Single barbless hooks.
- The maggots only I can agree with but I do not see a reason for such a limited time frame 1.5 months.

28.0% DISAGREE

- A total bait ban should be instituted.
- Bait is bait, let them take the fish.
- Bait ban year round.
- Bait ban should be total.
- Don't think any bait should be allowed.
- Fishing, catch and release only.
- Fly only and catch and release or impose whitefish closure.
- I would like to see a total bait ban.
- I don't feel it is necessary to allow any bait fishing on the Bow River.
- June to September is better.
- Keep the regulations simple - No Bait - many other places to fish Whitefish in Alberta.
- Need more enforcement to ensure maggots are the only bait being used.
- No bait is necessary.
- No bait at all. (2)
- No bait anytime.
- No bait - ever. (2)
- No bait. (4)
- No bait whatsoever.
- No bait should be allowed.
- Prefer no bait for mortality reasons.
- Should not be any bait.
- Total bait ban. (3)
- What about a place for kids to learn fishing?

3.2% NO OPINION

- Bait ban couldn't be enforced anyway.

DID NOT INDICATE, COMMENT ONLY

- No bait allowed - simpler enforcement.

4. **Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)** (N=190)

70.0% AGREE

- Catch and release for rainbow trout and only brown trout harvested (1<35cm).
- Trout, yes!

7.4% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- >35cm tor - but only one.
- Again stricter enforcement.
- Government be promoting the virtues of catch and release. Angling pressure is not such that the population is decreasing.
- Measurement to "pinched" length will increase handling of fish. Use fork length.
- Monitor this closely because the fish do not grow as quickly on the upper city stretch.
- No bull trout harvest.
- Only June 1 to October 1.
- Single barbless hooks.
- Use fork length not total (pinched) length. Fork length is quicker and easier to measure with less stress on fish. The use of fork length in the fishing regulations should have been adopted a long time ago.
- What's with this "pinched" crap? As a guide who handles a lot of fish, the last thing I want to do is handle them longer. Besides, tip on nose to fork in tail is far easier.

21.0% DISAGREE

- Catch and release on rivers with naturally - reproducing populations.
- Catch and release only. (2)
- Catch and release. (2)
- Fork length please. I do like the fact that this is consistent with the current and proposed regulations on the Lower River.
- From WID Weir to Carseland, 2 trout over 35cm.
- Limit of zero trout.
- My opinion from fishing the Bow for 45 years is that more adult fish die from catch and release than from actual harvest of fish by fisherman.
- No retention.
- No trout limit.
- No trout should be kept.
- No limit i.e., catch and release only.
- No catch and keep.
- None at all.
- None kept.
- None.
- Or one slot size 15 3/4" no smaller or bigger.

- Prefer all catch and release until further population study suggests too many fish per mile in river.
- Should be catch and release only.
- Stocked ponds are for killing.
- The river should be catch and release for all trout.
- There is no reason for such a restriction as 3 fish per day can be sustained at the present time.
- Too small.
- Total catch and release. (2)
- Trout should be catch and release all species.
- Why should the only world class water in Alberta be the only piece of water in Alberta to allow fish kill! Trout in this section should have full protection.
- Would like to see catch and release only.
- Zero limit.

1.6% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

DID NOT INDICATE, COMMENT ONLY

- Zero limit.

WID Weir to Carseland Weir

1. **No closures to angling** (N=189)

77.8% AGREE

- Catch and release only.(2)
- No bulls.

12.7% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- Biological studies take place to see impact.
- Close April 1 to June 1.
- Close the mouth of the Highwood in March to May.
- If studies show a significant impact of angling on spawning success, a spring closure at this location.
- In the minimum - maintain "0" spring trout limit.
- Keep eye on the mouth of the Highwood all though I don't think it's a problem.
- Keep an eye on staging rainbows at Highwood.
- Make from Highway 22 Bridge to Carseland.

- No wading April 1 - May 31, October 1 - November 30.
- Should be 100% catch and release. Fly only. Needs more policing.
- Should consider close monitoring at mouth of Highwood.
- Single barbless hooks, no bait.
- Single barbless hooks.
- Unless spawning occurs.
- Would still like to see mouth of Highwood closed in spring.

9.0% DISAGREE

- A closure 1km up and down of Highwood confluence during spring spawn should be enforced.
- Angling should be restricted in early spring at Highwood River/Bow River junction (staging area).
- Close Highwood/Bow Confluence March 1 to May 31. Close Bow above 22x October 1 to December 31.
- Closure of staging area Highwood River/Bow River.
- Do the studies first, get the science right, then make the decision. Until then we need spring at Highwood River. Will people never learn?
- Mouth of Highwood should be closed until April 30.
- Same closures should apply as Bearspaw Dam to WID Weir section.
- Think that there should be catch and release only April 1 to May 31 and October 1 to November 30.
- To hell with the guides. Do not kiss commercial interests ass! The river belongs to all of us. Close it April 1 to May 31.
- Why not protect brown trout in fall above 22x spring closure near Highwood Confluence.

0.5% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

2. **Bait ban** (N=189)

92.6% AGREE

- Flowing water.
- Some bait maybe for bait fisherman.
- This does not seem consistent to statements about maggots i.e., not demonstrated to cause significant mortality in trout.
- Total bait ban.
- Treble hook ban as well.

3.2% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- No treble hooks - seeing a lot of damaged fish.
- Single barbless hooks.
- Spin fishing with scented lures, rubber baits should be okay. Again as long as the line is not stationary and live bait (worms etc.) not used.

4.2% DISAGREE

- Allow 2 or 3 for limit (regardless of bait or size) then no more fishing.
- If the upper section can have maggot bait, this section should be able to have it also.

3. **Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)** (N=189)

68.3% AGREE

- No bulls.
- Two is fine.

6.3% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- Fish from April 1 to May 31 and from October 1 to November 30.
- Government be promoting the virtues of catch and release. Angling pressure is not such that the population is decreasing.
- June 1 to October 15.
- Measurement to "pinched" length will increase handling of fish. Use fork length.
- Single barbless hooks.
- Use fork length not total (pinched) length. Fork length is quicker and easier to measure with less stress on fish. The use of fork length in the fishing regulations should have been adopted a long time ago.

24.3% DISAGREE

- >35cm tor - only 1 trout.
- 0 Limit for 5 years.
- Allow 2 or 3 for limit (regardless of bait or size) then no more fishing.
- Careful monitoring of fish populations and catch and release if necessary.
- Catch and release only. (3)
- Catch and release from Highway 22 to Weir should be made.
- Catch and release. (2)
- Catch and release only on Bow.
- Catch and release warranted throughout.
- Catch and release - who would want to eat one of those fish anyway - 500,000 people crap in it every morning.

- Limit should be zero trout.
- No trout should be kept.
- No trout limit.
- No retention.
- No limit i.e., catch and release only.
- No kill. Slot size.
- No catch and keep.
- None at all.
- None kept.
- None.
- Populations studies are required to support any harvest.
- Prefer all catch and release until further population study suggests too many fish per mile in river.
- Should be catch and release only.
- Should be "0" limit.
- This section should be catch and release for all trout.
- Too small, allow 1 trophy per year with tag.
- Total catch and release.
- Trout should have full protection.
- Why? Let's go for a complete closure here.
- Zero limit. (2)

1.1% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

Carseland Weir to Highway 24 Bridge

1. **April 1 to May 31 - CLOSED** (N=190)

93.2% AGREE

- Are there posted signs? Where?
- No wading April 1 - May 31, October 1 - November 30.

2.1% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- Why not May long weekend opening?

2.1% DISAGREE

- Impose "No" wading.

2.6% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

2. **October 1 to November 30 - CLOSED** (N=189)

86.2% AGREE

- No comments were received.

3.7% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- October 15 to November 30. (2)
- Should be catch and release, no bait allowed.
- Thanksgiving?

6.9 DISAGREE

- Catch and release.
- Change date, November 1 to December 15.
- Close October 1 to March 31.
- Disagree, but not to strongly.
- I disagree but it would be good to see the big brown trout come back.
- If "successful" Brown Trout spawning is occurring in this section, then I may agree.
- Impose "No" wading.

3.2% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

DID NOT INDICATE, COMMENT ONLY

- Are there posted signs? Where?

3. **Bait ban** (N=189)

90.5% AGREE

- Some leniency for bait fisherman.
- Spin fishing with scented lures, rubber baits should be okay. Again as long as the line is not stationary and live bait (worms etc.) not used.

2.1% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- No treble hooks.
- Single barbless hooks.

5.3% DISAGREE

- Allow 2 or 3 for limit (regardless of bait or size) then no more fishing.
- Catch and release only.
- Simplify the regulations so all sections have the same bait restrictions.

2.1% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

4. **Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)** (N=190)

69.5% AGREE

- 13.77 Inches.
- No bulls.

6.3% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- Government be promoting the virtues of catch and release. Angling pressure is not such that the population is decreasing.
- May 1 to October 15.
- Measurement to "pinched" length will increase handling of fish. Use fork length.
- No treble hooks.
- Single barbless hooks.
- Use fork length not total (pinched) length. Fork length is quicker and easier to measure with less stress on fish. The use of fork length in the fishing regulations should have been adopted a long time ago.

21.6% DISAGREE

- 0 Limit for 5 years.
- Allow 2 or 3 for limit (regardless of bait or size) then no more fishing.
- Catch and release. (2)
- Catch and release only. (2)
- Limit of zero trout.
- No trout limit.
- No trout should be kept.
- No kill or slot size 15 3/4"
- No retention.
- No retention of any trout.
- No limit i.e., catch and release only.
- No catch and keep.
- None at all.

- None kept.
- None.
- Population studies - can we prove there are any surplus trout?
- Prefer all catch and release until further population study suggests too many fish per mile in river.
- Should be catch and release only.
- Should be "0" limit.
- Too small.
- Total catch and release.
- While river should be no take on trout.
- Zero limit. (2)
- Zero limit - all year.

2.6% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

Highway 24 Bridge to Bassano Dam

1. **No closures to angling** (N=190)

84.7% AGREE

- April 1 to May 31.
- Catch and release only.
- No wading April 1 - May 31, October 1 - November 30.

4.2% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- Biological Studies take place to track impact.
- Single barbless hooks, no bait.

5.8% DISAGREE

- Catch and release only from April 1 to May 31 and October 1 to November 30.
- I think the fish need a break. The push for no closures comes, I am sure, most strongly from commercial interests - commercialization of any outdoor sport invariably degrades the experience for the average sportsman.

5.3% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

2. **Bait ban** (N=188)

87.8% AGREE

- About time.
- Some leniency for bait fisherman.

3.2% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- No treble hooks.
- Single barbless hooks.
- What about Pike?

5.3% DISAGREE

- Allow 2 or 3 for limit (regardless of bait or size) then no more fishing.

3.7% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

3. **Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)** (N=189)

71.4% AGREE

- 13.77 Inches.
- I am pleased to see one size limit from Bearspaw to Bassano. I can see that this will greatly simplify the regulations.
- No bulls.
- This will be damned hard to enforce. But agree with it. Does this apply to Siksika residents.

5.8% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- Government be promoting the virtues of catch and release. Angling pressure is not such that the population is decreasing.
- May 1 to October 30.
- Measurement to "pinched" length will increase handling of fish. Use fork length.
- Single barbless hooks.
- Use fork length not total (pinched) length. Fork length is quicker and easier to measure with less stress on fish. The use of fork length in the fishing regulations should have been adopted a long time ago.

19.0% DISAGREE

- 0 limit for 5 years.
- Allow 2 or 3 for limit (regardless of bait or size) then no more fishing.
- Catch and release only. (2)
- Catch and release.
- Limit of zero trout.
- No limit i.e., catch and release only.

- No retention of any trout.
- No kill or slot size.
- No trout limit.
- No trout should be kept.
- No catch and keep.
- None at all.
- None kept.
- None.
- Prefer all catch and release until further population study suggests too many fish per mile in river.
- Should be "0" limit.
- Should be catch and release only.
- Total catch and release.
- While river should be no take on trout.
- World class waters - "no kill on trout."
- Zero limit. (2)

3.7% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

DID NOT INDICATE, COMMENT ONLY

- No retention.

General (Bearspaw Dam to Bassano Dam)

1. **Limit of one (1) trout less than 35 cm total length (maximum, pinched)** (N=187)

69.0% AGREE

- No comments were received.

8.6% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- Catch and release Bearspaw to Highway 24.
- Government promotes (advertises, educates) the public on benefits of catch and release. Studies are done regularly to ensure population not decreasing.
- I think the "trophy" section (22 to Carseland) needs to have more recognition. Catch and release does that.
- Measurement to "pinched" length will increase handling of fish. Use fork length.
- Only if populations can sustain this harvest.

- Single barbless hooks.
- Use fork length not total (pinched) length. Fork length is quicker and easier to measure with less stress on fish. The use of fork length in the fishing regulations should have been adopted a long time ago.

21.4% DISAGREE

- 0 limit for 5 years.
- All should be catch and release.
- Allow 2 or 3 for limit (regardless of bait or size) then no more fishing.
- Catch and release.
- Catch and release only.
- Catch and release water shed.
- Establish a total catch and release trout section in the middle section.
- Fly fishing only areas. No retention of fish.
- Limit of zero trout.
- Make 22x to Carseland catch and release.
- No trout should be kept.
- No retention.
- No limit i.e., catch and release only.
- No catch and keep.
- None at all.
- None kept. (2)
- Prefer all catch and release until further population study suggests too many fish per mile in river.
- Should be catch and release only.
- Should be "0" limit.
- Too small.
- While river should be no take on trout.
- Zero limit.

1.1% NO OPINION

- I hate this measure! Fork length please. I like the consistency but I see no reason for any trout taken btween the WID Weir and Carseland.

DID NOT INDICATE, COMMENT ONLY

- Catch and release.

2. **Mountain Whitefish - allow possession of five (5) over 30 cm in length** (N=186)

78.0% AGREE

- Less white fish means more trout.

7.5% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- 2 over 30cm.
- Heavy fines for over the limit.
- Limit 10.
- Needs to be monitored to prevent over harvest.
- Single barbless hooks.
- Size limit not needed.
- Why not reduce to 2-3.

10.8% DISAGREE

- <35cm.
- 5 large fish per person seems like too many.
- Allow possession of five under 30cm in length.
- Limited 3.
- No limit i.e., catch and release only.
- None at all.
- None kept.
- None.
- Possession/limit should be 10 for "smoking" purposes.
- Possession limit to high.
- Possession at 2.
- Seems too high a daily limit to me.
- This high number seems unjustified for this under studied sport fish. Maybe limit 3.

3.8% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

DID NOT INDICATE, COMMENT ONLY

- 10. Inches.

3. **Northern Pike - limit of three (3) with no size limit** (N=188)

65.4% AGREE

- Good way to keep a Blue Ribbon trout fishery.
- Less Pike means more trout.
- No bait limitations.

5.9% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- Bearspaw to Carseland, no closed season on Pike.
- Only if populations can sustain this harvest.
- Single barbless hooks.
- Size limits.
- Size matters.

19.7% DISAGREE

- Because of the situation with pike stocks, catch and release.
- Catch and release on all pike.
- Conflict with general pike regulations.
- Limit of 2, only 1 over 70cm.
- Limit too high.
- Limit of one.
- Need size limits - Native to river - Conserve them.
- No limit i.e., catch and release only.
- No limit - must be removed from entire Bow.
- No catch and keep.
- None at all.
- None kept.
- None.
- Not fish that may spawn.
- Pike regulations would not be in line with current Provincial Regulations.
- Pike are threatened.
- Provincial size limits need to be imposed.
- Should be the same as Provincial Regulations.
- The Bow River is for all fish not just trout.
- These natives deserve protection - small population limit zero.

- Three is an awful lot for a top predator. This limit should be reduced.
- Would prefer if it followed Provincial regulations for pike.

9.0% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

DID NOT INDICATE, COMMENT ONLY

- At the most 3.

4. **Current provincial regulations should apply for all other sport fish species found in the lower Bow River** (N=186)

83.3% AGREE

- Exception for burbot and white nose suckers.

6.5% AGREE WITH CONDITIONS

- All species should be looked at and evaluated from a conservation perspective. If there appears to be a down trend then regulations should alter to help maintain populations.
- Remove Perch from the Bow, no limit, no closed season.
- Single barbless hooks.

4.8% DISAGREE

- All fish should have a 0 limit unless they are like whitefish and pike, that feed on fly and eggs. They should be caught to keep them in check and give trout a chance.
- Bow River should remain a trophy fishery.
- Burbot, goldeye limits must be reduced -10 is ridiculous! We had a province wide limit of 10 pike until last year. This bureaucratic incompletance has got to stop.
- Kill the Pike, harvest most whitefish.
- No limit i.e., catch and release only.

5.4% NO OPINION

- No comments were received.

DID NOT INDICATE, COMMENT ONLY

- Pike?

A Little About Yourself

Which of the following BEST describes your interest in the lower Bow River? (N=184)

7.12%	Fly Fishing	0.0%	First Nations	2.7%	Recreational Boating
2.7%	Bait Fishing	0.5%	Land Owner	0.5%	Other Recreational User
6.0%	Spin Fishing	0.0%	Land Developer	7.6%	Fishing Guide/Equipment Retailer
8.2%	Environmental/Conservation			0.5%	Other:

Additional Comments

- "More" policing of all the above areas will be required to enhance and solidify these regulations, if Alberta Environment acts on the proposal! I would personally like a catch and release only program for the 240 km and perhaps in time this will come about.
- As a resident of the Northwest, I feel the proposed recommendations are highly discriminatory to any fisherman who prefers to fish the Bearspaw Dam to WID Weir section. Unless overwhelming, concrete evidence can be shown that the vast majority of trout spawning occurs in the Dam to Weir section and not in the Weir to Carseland section at all - the regulations should be balanced. I find it very interesting that 4 major flyshops in the Southland Drive and Macleod Trail area would benefit enormously from the proposed recommendations, while flyshops in the other areas would suffer.
- Bearspaw to WID - why not allow fishing - no wading? In autumn.
- Because of its location to a large urban centre and reputation as a blue ribbon stream we should protect the game species within this resource. I would consider a total catch and release regulation. This would help eliminate confusion to the regulations.
- Catch and release for trout everywhere.
- Catch and release should be applied to all areas. There should be a universal bait ban. The section at the confluence of the Highwood River and Bow River should be closed during spawning season.
- Change the measuring method to an open tail (not pinched) and measure to the inside of the curve. This is easier to do with a live fish and quite often while you are holding fishing equipment in the middle of the river. You only need a single mark (tape) on your pole to indicate the minimum length. This is easy to compare with the length of the fish when only using one free hand, plus there is less handling of the fish required.
- Children and Seniors should be allowed to use bait. Possession limits for trout remain the same.
- Close monitoring is necessary due to large fishing pressure. Also, enforcement must be visible and continuous. Poaching is a very real problem.
- Despite written presentations and discussion/voting at one meeting I attended, there is no mention of power boat restrictions on the Bow from the Bearspaw to Carseland Weir - Why not? Guides have voted in favour of restrictions and at the meeting I attended the majority wanted some degree of power boat limits. The advisory committee first 2 of 9 criteria are in my opinion, in jeopardy if power boating is not restricted on the Lower Bow and this entire public process falls into question if the topic is not dealt with.
- Excellent job! Sounds like this really simplifies things for the average angler. Keep up the good work!
- For a blue ribbon fishery such as the Bow River it is a shame that bait (maggots) be allowed as well as being able to keep fish. Look at some of the famous rivers in the world and lead by their example.
- Good set of regulations - BUT - continue to monitor and study populations and adjust as necessary.
- Fly fishing and spin fishing is also what I like to do.
- Good job! This seemed to work better than the Pike affair. I am still PO'd about how the pike regulations went. Thus is life.

- Great job! I have been involved in every other public consultation process and this one seems to have worked out well.
- Guide's should be involved with Alberta Environment to show the anglers that it is not only fish and game will catch you, we will show the public we will report you. We probably would need a type of conservation badge to let the anglers know we are for real. We will take your license number and make of vehicle and report you. Stiffer fines should be implicated. Very good changes have been brought up to help our fisheries.
- Have guided, taught and introduced thousands of tourists and locals to this great treasure. Would also recommend a jet boat, jet ski and large motorboats be banned from Glenmore Trail to Caresland Weir because you wouldn't condone a truck on a bike path, so why allow jet boats on the Bow River.
- I find it ironic that the committee recommends closures on certain sections to protect spawning fish and habitat yet totally ignores a major staging area like the mouth of the Highwood. It states that the few studies done suggest that mortality rates should have further studies. What about the stress on the fish that have been caught, played to exhaustion and released? If we have to wait 2, 3, 4 years for a study why not implement a closure of this section, say 3000 yards upstream and down just to be sure. These recommendations are to help sustain this fishery before it is to late, not after the fact.
- I support closure of the Highwood Spawning area for the period of spring spawn. I agree that future studies need to be done to determine the compact of angling on these spawning trout.
- I do not think that the regulations should be changed to accommodate any one type of fishing. The only issue of real importance is the maintenance of sustainable fish species in the Bow River. This includes providing proper guidelines in fishing regulations which will help maintain proper fish levels and also provide a reasonable level of fishing enjoyment for all anglers whether they are flyfishers, bait fishers or spin fishers.
- I feel strongly that the section for WID Dam to Carseland should be catch and release, fly fishing only. This would potentially make this section of the Bow even more ??????. Policing, ??? ????? and punishements all need huge increases. There should be zero tolerance of poaching, especially night poaching by gangs of.....
- I believe catch and release should apply to all trout angling and that only single barbless hooks should be allowed on all lures. Trout are a special, highly prized game fish and they should be preserved for angling. In today's society, there is no need for a fisherman to kill a trout for supper. He can buy one at the supermarket!
- I would like to see more enforcement people working the Carseland Weir area. Most people follow the sportfishing regulations, however there are groups of people who rape our system. I have seen it and not only took everything caught, never had a licence to fish. I made a huge mistake, I never reported it. This will never happen again! Please put on more enforcement people, our fish need a chance too. Thanks. Map hard to read proposed new sections.
- I am confused as to why spawning brown trout are not being afforded protection below the WID Weir in Calgary. My understanding was that the most significant spawning occurs between Inglewood and Glenmore Bridge. The proposed closures appear to be inconsistent with this and I am appalled that we will not enact any closures to protect staging Rainbow Trout at confluence with Highwood.

- I feel the only way to preserve the fishery is to implement catch and release only, and the sooner the better.
- I would like to have Bearspaw Dam to Highway 22x bridge as a section instead of it's small size at present. The section to the Carseland Weir should have gas engines disallowed. The amount of H_20 removed from the Bow must be monitored and enforced. You know why!
- I find it hard to believe some "statement" at least couldn't be made about the Carseland Weir and game fish loss. I'm very perplexed, puzzled and annoyed that the Government hasn't acted!
- I feel the more protection there is for spawning trout the better the fishery will be in the future. Therefore, I feel strongly about enforcing a closure at the confluence of the Highwood River. There has been days when floating by the Highwood confluence during the spring spawn, where I have seen over 20 anglers pressuring the banks and river. That has to have great effect on the rainbow trout.
- I would like to see a 5 year 0 limit on trout to repopulate the Rivers. I would also like to see if something can be done to help the Elbow River which has fallen to such decay, I don't think fish can even survive in it anymore.
- I think more pressure should be put on people fishing illegally such as using bait etc.
- I like the proposed changes. I'm not sure about classing scents for spoons etc. or scent impregnated rubber baits as "bait" in general. As a fly fisherman I try to imitate natural food sources and I don't believe spin casting "baits" do anymore damage to the fish as long as the line is being retrieved. True baits (worms, bait fish etc.) are typically fished stationary which allows the fish to take it deeper so does using a bobber (the fish set hook themselves). Even with a strike indicator I have found on occasion the fly line getting too much slack on the water and by the time I tighten it up the fish has taken the hook a little deeper, not as bad as bait but care in releasing is greater.
- I would like to see a barbless hook regulation. If you can get a study on fish that die from baited hooks you can surely get a study showing the effects of handling a captured fish for too long of a duration. Ask Manitoba how barbless works for them in that Province?
- I disagree with the comments that the use of maggots does not "significantly increase trout catches or mortality." I watched a large increase of "bait" fisherman using maggots and catching large numbers of trout last fall. I also am concerned that allowing 5 whitefish to be taken per day is "overkill." I feel that 2 or 3 whites would be enough and would like more information on whitefish numbers in the Bow River system.
- I feel that the BearsPaw Resivour should be closed to bait and the limit for trout reduced. If something is put into place it will give everyone a better fishery in the future. Let's keep the Bow River what it is and that is a World Class Fishery.
- I do most of my fishing between Bearspaw Dam and the WID Weir. From March through November I fish this section of the Bow River on average twice a week. I do not support the proposed seasonal closures because I find it too restrictive. Brown trout and Whitefish populations seem to be increasing here even with the extensive illegal fishing (bait fishing and some significant harvest of fish). Part of the reasoning for the proposed closures is concern that wading anglers are trampling redds. Since I don't wade I feel I would be penalized for the bad behaviour of others. If there were a significant decline in trout numbers then I would support the closures but the current context I think they go too far. I disagree with the maggot exemption from the bait ban since the

best Whitefish fishing months would be closed under the proposed seasonal closure anyway. I think it would be easier to ticket illegal bait-fishers if there were no exemptions to the ban. I'm a catch and release fisherman but I think the proposed creel and size limits are unnecessarily restrictive. I think the river can (and in fact already does through the illegal fishery) withstand some limited harvest. I think what would be more sensible is a two trout limit with only one above 15 inches. For the section from WID Weir to Carseland, which I feel occasionally, I would prefer to see no closures to angling. But if you are going to close the upstream section in the fall to protect Brown trout you ought as well do the same in this section too since they spawn in the river here the same way. I agree with the bait ban, but disagree with the creel and size limits for the reason stated above. For the Section from the Carseland Weir to Highway 24 bridge, I support the seasonal closures because this is a small segment of the river with concentrated spawning activity and it has had seasonal closures in the past. I've never fished here. Downstream of Highway 24 Bridge, I've only fished once so I have no strong feelings about the regulations there.

- I mostly fish McKinnon Flats to the Highway 24 Bridge and have noticed in the last few years the fish size getting a bit smaller. This should help to fix that problem.
- I would like to see more control over bait fishing in the Bow. I've seen orientals fishing in the Douglasdale/McKenzie area early in the morning with minnows and a garbage bag full of fish. Slap them with a heavy fine to discourage this.
- I actually disagree with the keeping of any trout. It should all be catch and release. After all the sport is catching not eating. If eating of fish is wanted, go and buy then at Co-op.
- I'm aware that there is little scientific evidence that single barbless hooks prevent fish mortality. However, it does change 'attitude' to catch and release. In some case, such as this fishery, an 'attitude' change is more important than a regulation change.
- If there is a problem with trout dying because of catch and release. All hooks used should be barbless in Alberta.
- In order to preserve the rainbow trout population and to curb the shifting rainbow/brown ratio, there should be a harvest of only brown trout.
- Increase fines for violators. No Motorized vehicles. More biology. More enforcement.
- It seems that a bait ban is your only solution to saving Alberta's fish population. When in fact over-fishing is tops on my list. I have been fishing in and around the Calgary area for over 15 years, where are the Wildlife Officers? Certain ethnic groups over, over fish these waters and no one around. Big time whn Ice fishing (Bearspaw Dam Spillway).
- Item 2 - General (Bearspaw to Bassano Dam) (5) large whitefish allowance seems to be a large number. Three would seem to me a number that is still good for the angler as well as a sustainable number for the species of sport fish.
- It's a step in the right direction.
- Its about time the Government started managing the fishery from a scientific perspective. I congratulate the Advisory Committee on its work.
- Key to any regulation is education and enforcement. Unless Alberta Environment makes more funding available (?? Fisheries Biology/Habitat research) this will largely be a waste of time. At least you're trying! Keep up the good work.

- Pike regulations must coincide with pike areas.
- Pike regulations on Bow would be in conflict with other regulations.
- Regarding question 3 - Bearspaw to WID Weir: should have bait ban (allowing maggots is inconsistent with balance of new recommendations). Regarding question 2 - General: Whitefish limit at 5 is too high! How about 3 (still enough for a meal).
- Single barbless hooks totally on the river and possibly for all of Alberta. I don't buy the argument that we need to keep part of the river open to fishing all year. That's crap - it caters to guides and other commercial interest. There should be a year round ban on "pushy, arrogant, self-serving" guiding companies and individuals" who feel the river was put there for their own personal use - the river belongs to all of us! Protect it.
- Slot sizes trout 15 3/4" no bigger, no smaller. Lake trout 25" no bigger no smaller. Walleye 19" no bigger, no smaller. Pike 30" no bigger, no smaller. Perch 10" no bigger, no smaller. Province wide regulations would make our regulations easier to enforce and understand.
- Sometime in the near future I would like to see catch and release regulations applied to all rainbows and browns.
- Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input on this subject. I do not agree with the "1" trout limit on the Bow between the 22x and Carseland. Please consider total catch and release for all species on this section. This would make enforcement much easier for both Fish and Wildlife and concerned observers. Very little targeting of Whitefish occurs in this section and few legitimate anglers would be affected.
- Thank you for your intent into our valuable resource.
- Thanks for the opportunity to participate.
- The Bow River is a natural resource that must be protected. This resource brings a huge boost to the Calgary and area economy. Having fly fished all over North America I know that we have one of the most incredible fisheries known and we should try to keep it this way.
- The Highwood should be looked at closer.
- There is no need to keep trout from the Bow. Zero possession and fly fishing only should be applied 22x to Carseland. Etiquitte rules may be required soon to deal with over crowding in city. I'm very concerned about un-treated storm sewer water entering the Bow, will become more of an issue as the City grows, Bow can only handle so much. Fish ladder/barriers needed for canals at end of season to prevent fish from being trapped.
- There should be more money allocated for the need of enforcement of regulations i.e., more wildlife/conservation officers to patrol the Bow River.
- The river needs fall protection. Please maintain the status quo.
- There should be a ban on speed boats with outboard or inboard motors on the upper and lower sections of the Bow River for the safety of wading anglers.
- There is a need to monitor the mouth of the Highwood River (and possibly the mouth of the Sheep River) to ensure that spawning runs are not subjected to high (i.e., extreme) angling pressure. There may be a need to reduce harvest pressure on mountain whitefish.

- There is a great deal of damage done to redds by wading fisherman (flyfishers). They seem on the whole to stupid to stay out of the redds during the spawn. Implement a bow River Guide License at say 5,000 per year. The best and most comprehensive hooking mortality study (12 year study) bait verses flyfishing done on the snake river also a blue ribbon trout stream show a 1½% difference in mortality flyfishing killing 1½% more.
- These regulations really simplify matters. Please keep pushing for more money for research and monitoring of trout populations, insects, sustainability etc. Good job!
- These proposals are a definite improvement. I recognize it is not part of the mandate, but the key to successful maintenance of the fishery is effective enforcement. The committee should make a plea for reasonable enforcement to back up their recommendations.
- Total catch and release for rainbows and browns, single hook, barbless - especially in the Lower Bow (i.e., if we are going to impose restrictions to protect the fishery why go half way?
- Water quality and pollution downstream of Calgary? Trapped fish in canals primarily in late fall.
- We need to protect our valuable rivers and the fish populations they support. Clearly, proactive intervention is needed to maintain what we have and enable future generations to enjoy fishing these rivers.
- We are so lucky.
- We will never know what the Bow River trout total carrying capacity will ever be if we continue to allow harvest on the whole river. Similar rivers in Montana (i.e., Bighorn and Missouri) carry twice and three times the number of fish than the Bow. I do not believe the Bow is anywhere near carrying capacity yet.
- We are attracting more people than this river can handle with catch and release, especially fishing guides. In the long haul we will have to limit the number of fish we are allowed to catch.
- Well done.
- Why has this study not addressed non-game species? Why should one be able to throw suckers in the bushes? Didn't we use to do that with Bull Trout? If a species is not designated as game, there should be a zero limit. Let's try and show a little foresight, a little intelligence, and a little respect for the other inhabitants of this planet.
- WID Weir to Carseland Weir - i.e., I find this inconsistent with your nine criteria and would like to see a spring closure at the mouth of the Highwood River. Would like to know fisherman status on stretch of Bow River through Siksika "Nation."
- WID Weir to Carseland Weir - If studies significant impact of angling (poaching) on spawning success, a spring closure at this location would be one way of saving those fish species.
- Without more visible wildlife officers it would be quite hard to enforce a bait ban. I've come across many bait fishers below 22x. A lot pack up when they see me. Obviously they are poaching. Usually the months December to March are the worst. I've never even seen a officer in the 20 years I've been fishing the Bow in the winter.
- Would it be possible to define a period for those sections of the river subject to a total bait ban that would allow the use of bait during a period when trout populations are dispersed in order to improve changes to catch other species i.e., Northern Pike, Burbot?

- Would like to read report on mortality of trout related to catch and release as mentioned in your review. Proposal: some countries (Holland) allow catch (no release) of ONE trout per day which has to be kept whatever size (just like hunting). A good fisherman knows the size of the fish to be caught, doesn't he?
- You can't have regulations if they are not enforced, so I hope that sufficient enforcement is also thought of.
- Your public consultation process does not achieve one of the major roles of consultation - dialogue between different points of view. I would suggest background papers (e.g., bait use mortality) displays an open house with opportunities to speak one on one with staff and the steering committee.
- Zero limit on pike catch and release only for the next five years. 800 Lakes divided by Alberta's population divided by fishing licenses plus 5 to 8% who fish anyway divided by lakes that hold Norther Pike?